



Box 1011
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N9
4907 – 52 Avenue
Chamber of Commerce Business Centre
Phone: 780.778.5363
Email: manager@whitecourtchamber.com

July 12, 2022

Staff Sergeant Ted Zaddery
RCMP, Whitecourt Detachment
4244 42 Avenue
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6

Re: Highway 43

Dear Staff Sergeant Zaddery,

I am writing to you regarding the traffic on highway 43 as it travels through the heart of Whitecourt. There have been several serious accidents and fatalities along this stretch in the past, and recently on June 16, 2022, when another person tragically lost their life. There has been an increase in traffic on the highway over the past few months. While this is a positive sign of increased economic activity for our region, it also means there is an increased potential for serious or fatal accidents. This potential is significantly increased when speed and heavy vehicles enter the equation.

The Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce has received concerns from our members pertaining to this issue. In particular, we have been made aware of many large trucking vehicles that try to time lights, or speed, in order to keep up momentum in their vehicle. Their reaction time and stopping distance is affected by having a foot on the pedal instead of on the brake.

I ask you to consider significantly stepping up traffic law vigilance and enforcement at points along the highway through Whitecourt's limits. Speeding, timing of and running lights and other reckless behaviour is a threat to the safety of our citizens and visitors to our town.

There are many businesses, such as hotels, restaurants and gas stations, schools, and other services that are adjacent to, or near the highway. People must cross this artery by vehicle or on foot to access home, work and leisure activities. An increased presence from the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies will cause drivers to reconsider their actions. Photo radar will not deter the behaviour, especially as no demerit points are issued and the driver of the vehicle may not be the registered owner, as in the case of many commercial vehicles. Stopping violators and ticketing them appropriately will reduce the speed and non-compliance to traffic signals and will result in fewer tragic accidents like last month.

I am copying the Honourable Prasad Panda, Minister of Transportation, on this letter and ask him to give thoughtful consideration to reducing the speed limit on highway 43 within the town limits of Whitecourt to 50 km/h. This would be comparable to the speed limit on highways 18 and 44 through the town of Westlock.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dickin', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Dickin, President

CC:

Martin Long, MLA

Honourable Prasad Panda, Minister of Transportation

Rae-Ann Lajeunesse, Deputy Minister, Transportation

Melissa Manchak, Chief of Staff, Transportation

Mayor Tom Pickard, Town of Whitecourt