



Municipality of East Ferris

Police Services Board Communiqué

September 24, 2021

The East Ferris Police Services Board is pleased that Municipality's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was recently approved by Ontario's Solicitor General. One of the Plan's key objectives focuses on ensuring all East Ferris residents go about their daily activities without risk or fear of harm and that includes when using municipal roads for driving, walking, jogging and cycling.

At the East Ferris Police Services Board, we continue to discuss the fact that to ensure our roads are safe for all users, it will involve an increasing number of solutions: education and awareness, speed limiting technologies, road calming measures such as speed limit adjustments, automated enforcement and in person enforcement. Not all solutions fall under the responsibility of the Police Services Board, and some may never apply while some are longer term in nature. Nonetheless, we thought citizens might welcome knowing what forms part of the discussions at Police Services Board meetings.

The work of the Police Services Board is based on factual information including reports on calls for service, vehicle incidents, traffic complaints, radar sign data, community surveys such as the Community Safety and Well-Being survey, and recorded complaints by citizens. That is why it is always so essential to look to formal channels of complaint to express a traffic concern versus doing so on social media. All speeding enforcement related concerns that are brought forward to the OPP either online at OPP.ca or by telephone to the OPP North Bay detachment at (705) 495-3878 are included in police reporting to our Police Services Board and discussed at Board and then Council meetings.

While factual information is essential, so is accurate and specific information. The OPP has recently initiated electronic ticketing in East Ferris to further help identify where speeding is occurring. As the Municipality looks to new technology to assist with road safety, it concurrently works on ensuring its reliability. Since 2019, the Municipality has been investing in mobile speed watch signs. This technology is proven effective in slowing traffic and is an asset in improving road safety. It further serves to identify speed violation trends and problem areas.

Speed limits on municipal roads are set by the municipality and are based on several parameters provided by the Transportation Association of Canada as well as secondary information such as that provided by mobile signs. The Municipality is in the process of updating its Asset Management Plan that includes reviewing established speed limits and in 2021 it approved the purchase of PSD Citywide innovative software to assist with such work.

Earlier this year, the Municipality appointed an Active Transportation Task Force to identify opportunities for enhancing active modes of transportation for recreation purposes to include walking, jogging and cycling. Concerns expressed by East Ferris citizens via the Community

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Safety and Well-Being survey and by online comment form part of the information being reviewed. The Task Force will be releasing a draft Active Transportation Plan for public comments in November 2021 prior to its release to Council for final review and approval.

In support of safe roads, the Police Services Board will launch an education and awareness campaign in 2022 aimed at ensuring we the residents of East Ferris always make it home safe, no matter our form of transportation.

In closing, we invite citizens who have concerns related to safety to come before the Police Services Board. Delegations are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Clerk Monica Hawkins at the Municipal Office at (705) 752-2740 or by email monica.hawkins@eastferris.ca.