



# City of Moose Jaw

**COMMUNICATION # CC-2022-0268**

**TITLE:** Traffic Lights – Highway #1 and 9th Avenue NW

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** City Manager

**DATE:** October 19, 2022

**PUBLIC:** PUBLIC DOCUMENT

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the City of Moose Jaw communicate to the Government of Saskatchewan Caucus that due to the urgent needs for safety and growth, the Traffic Lights at Highway #1 and 9th Avenue NW be installed as soon as possible; and

THAT the Traffic Lights at Highway #1 and Thatcher Drive be included in the Highway #1 – Moose Jaw Corridor Planning Study; and further

THAT a Town Hall meeting be organized by the City of Moose Jaw and the Highway #1 North Service Road Business Owners inviting the Minister of Highways and all other stakeholders such as business owners, the Chamber of Commerce, other municipalities, and first responders to discuss this urgent need and develop a public awareness campaign.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide City Council with an update on the request for traffic lights at the intersection of Highway #1 and 9th Avenue NW.

## **BACKGROUND**

City Council, at its regular meeting held on September 26, 2022, adopted the following resolution:

*“THAT the City of Moose Jaw notify the Minister of Highways that it is in support of vehicle actuated traffic lights at the intersection of, as an interim measure:*

- 9th Ave. NW and Highway #1
- Thatcher Drive and Highway #1”



Highway #1 is a national highway and under the control of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways. Under the Urban Highway Connector Program, the Ministry of Highways is 100% responsible for the control, maintenance, and capital upgrades for the corridor through the City of Moose Jaw limits.

The City of Moose Jaw has had ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Highways respecting the need for traffic safety enhancements at the two noted intersections.

The City will participate in a committee with Highways to study the Highway #1 corridor through Moose Jaw in 2022/23. These two intersections have been flagged as a safety concern for many years. It is believed that an interchange is required for a permanent solution; however, that can be a lengthy process and immediate action is required to enhance safety at these locations.

The business owners on the Highway #1 service road met with the Minister of Highways and presented the attached report (included in Attachment A).

The business group have asked for City Council support. The Highway #1 corridor study can take some time to complete. The construction of an interchange potentially can take three to five years to design and construct.

Vehicle actuated lights are critical, for interim safety measures, to address this long outstanding safety concern.

## **DISCUSSION**

Attached, please find the September 20, 2022 report to Council and the letter that was forwarded to the Minister of Highways.

The Minister responded on October 19, 2022 and agreed that safety is the top responsibility, however, that there is a Corridor Planning Study being completed and while the concept of traffic lights will be included and considered in the study, there will be no immediate installation.

The City of Moose Jaw finds that unreasonable considering the intersections particularly Highway #1 and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW have been a safety concern for an extended period. Since 2010, 37 collisions have occurred and 30 people have been injured. The most notable year was 2016, with seven collisions and 10 injuries. It is only a matter of time before something more serious happens with almost 7,000 vehicle movements per day. For comparison purposes, the Yellowhead Highway #16 East into Saskatoon also has around 7,000 vehicle movements per day. While not as many accidents, the Highway #1 and Thatcher Drive intersection has almost 10,000 vehicle movements per day.

Further, the corridor will become under more strain due to the increased economic activity that is occurring in Moose Jaw. Donald's Fine Foods is establishing a Sow Processing Plant south of Highway #1 at Caribou St. W. and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection, Brandt Industries will soon be under production at their Manufacturing Facility adjacent to Highway #1, and an agreement was reached with property owners on Highway #1 north and west of the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection that will see highway commercial land being developed. There has been interest from food processors to locate in the Moose Jaw Agri-Food Industrial Park and the Great Plains Power station is under construction.



The City has attracted almost one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) of investment in Moose Jaw over the past four years and an estimated almost 600 jobs over the past two and next three years. Our Economic Development Strategy was designed to support the Provincial Growth Plan.

## **MOOSE JAW IS A MAJOR ECONOMIC DRIVER FOR SASKATCHEWAN**

Not only are those intersections already unsafe, but it is also anticipated to become worse as Moose Jaw builds upon this tremendous momentum and continues to grow and prosper.

We recently met again with the Highway #1 North Service Road Business Owners who also believe this to be unacceptable. It is proposed that the City of Moose Jaw communicate to the Government of Saskatchewan Caucus that due to the urgent needs for safety and growth, the traffic lights at Highway #1 and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW be installed as soon as possible and that the traffic lights at Highway #1 and Thatcher Drive be included in the corridor planning study.

Further, it is proposed that a Town Hall meeting be organized by the City of Moose Jaw and the Highway #1 North Service Road Business Owners inviting the Minister of Highways and all other stakeholders such as business owners, the Chamber of Commerce, other municipalities, and first responders to discuss this urgent need and develop a public awareness campaign.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

This report supports the Strategic Plan Objective #1 – Branding, Objective #2 – Agriculture, Diversification, and Innovation, and Objective #3 – Transportation and Infrastructure.

## **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Jim Puffalt, City Manager, will introduce the report.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Report dated September 20, 2022 from the City Manager, re: Traffic Lights – Intersections of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW and Highway #1 and Thatcher Drive and Highway #1.
- B. Letter dated September 28, 2022 from Mayor Tolley to the Minister of Highways.

## **REPORT APPROVAL**

Written by: Jim Puffalt, MBA, CMMA, RMA, City Manager  
Reviewed by: Tracy Wittke, City Clerk  
Approved by: Jim Puffalt, MBA, CMMA, RMA, City Manager  
Approved by: Clive Tolley, Mayor

*To be completed by the Clerk's Department only.*

Presented to Regular Council or Executive Committee on \_\_\_\_\_.



Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_



## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Traffic Lights - Highway 1 and 9th Avenue NW - CC-2022-0268.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment A - Communication CC-2022-0225.pdf - Attachment B - Letter dated Sept. 28.22 to the Minister of Highways.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 20, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Tracy Wittke

Tracy Wittke



Jim Puffalt

**No Signature - Task assigned to Clive Tolley was completed by assistant  
Caroline Dreger**

Clive Tolley