



Traffic Safety Plan

2016-2018

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PURPOSE

As per the Alberta Solicitor General's guidelines, a Traffic Safety Plan is put in place to give a better understanding of traffic enforcement, the concerns and the initiatives set out to reduce collisions, injuries and improve the overall safety of the streets of Beaumont.

Beaumont's last Traffic Safety Plan was created in 2013. The 2016-2018 Traffic Safety Plan has been produced as a revised model of operations for the Town of Beaumont. Its purpose is to document analyzed data, to prioritize initiatives and to improve road safety in accordance with the requirements of employers of Community Peace Officers, as outlined by the Public Security Peace Officer Program – Policy & Procedures Manual.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Beaumont has employed Bylaw Officers/ Special Constables/ Peace Officers since 1978 when it was a Village of approximately 300 residents. The Town has since grown to 17,000 residents, currently employing three full-time Community Peace Officers. The Peace Officers are housed out of the Beaumont RCMP Detachment, which opened in October 2008 and share support staff with the RCMP. The staff compliment consists of two Peace Officers, working rotating shifts, primarily from 0600 – 0000, Monday through Saturday year round depending on time of year. These Officers are directly supervised by a third Peace Officer (the Municipal Enforcement Supervisor). The Municipal Enforcement Supervisor also works a rotational shift schedule and reviews/ approves all files. The Town of Beaumont Community and Protective Services General Manager oversees the department and is the Peace Officer Program contact person as per the Alberta Solicitor General's guidelines. It is estimated that 40% of daily duties are dedicated to traffic safety, enforcement and driver education within the Town of Beaumont. Other duties of the Peace Officers include local bylaw enforcement & compliance, animal control and assisting the RCMP, Fire Department and other Town departments within the scope of a Peace Officer's duties.

DEMOGRAPHIC

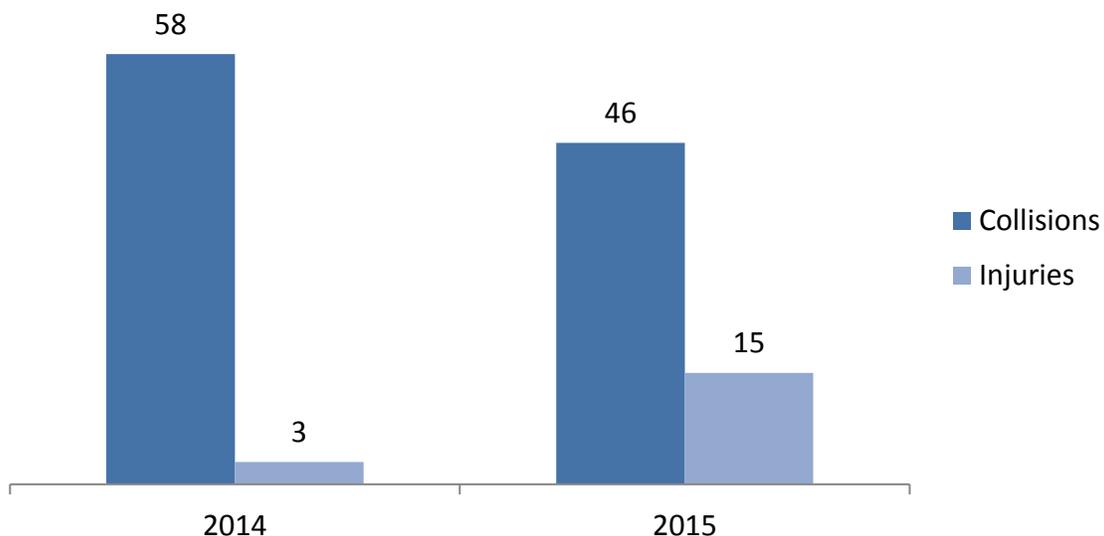
The Town of Beaumont's primary roadways are Highway 814, known as 50 Street running centrally north and southbound and Township Road 505, known as 50 Avenue running through east and westbound. Primary Highway 625 is also located adjacent to the southern corporate limits of the Town running both east and westbound, while Township Road 510 runs East and Westbound on the northern corporate limits. On the

western corporate limits runs Range Road 243 north and southbound, while on the eastern limits of Beaumont is Range Road 241 also running north and southbound. Along with these major arteries within Beaumont is a circular road running through a majority of the Town center commonly referred to as the “Ring Road”. Further out into the residential areas through Beaumont are several roads built, due for or under construction that, once completed, will create another larger ring road around Beaumont. The Town has over 70 kilometers of local roads including residential roadways, six (6) school zones, two (2) recreational facilities, and numerous businesses/ Town facilities which are primarily centrally located.

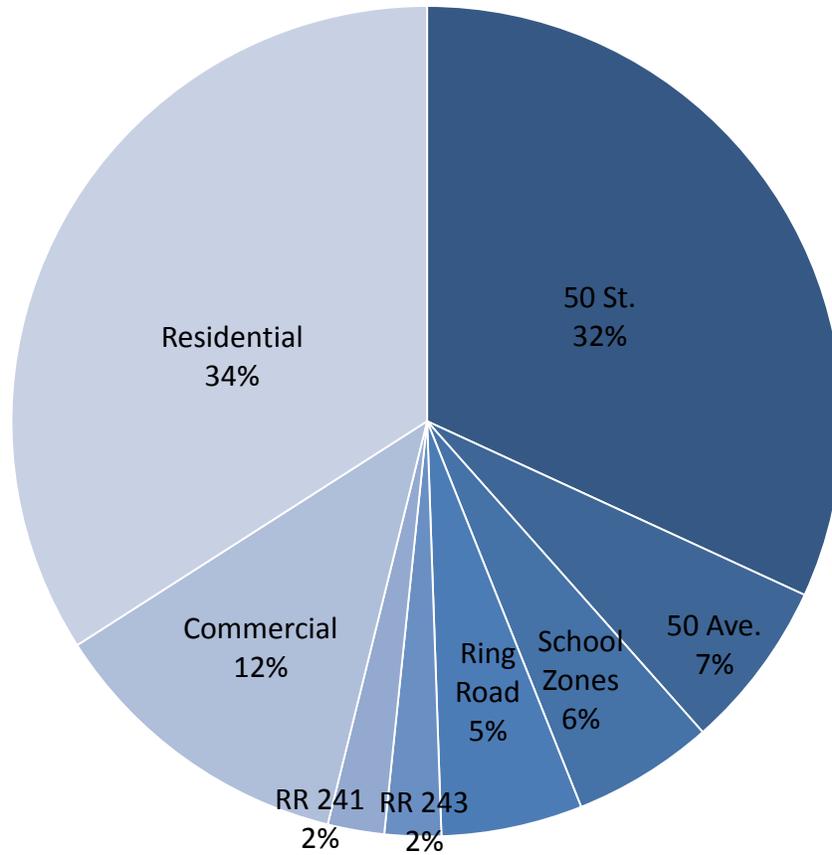
Ongoing 2015-2016 annexation discussions between several governing parties may result in the rapid expansion of Beaumont to allow for population growth. Land that may become Beaumont includes areas west of Range Road 243, south of Highway 625 and north of Township Road 510 that, if successful, would result in sections of the mentioned roads becoming the Town of Beaumont’s to enforce upon and maintain.

COLLISION STATISTICS

From Jan. 1, 2014 – Dec. 31, 2015, Beaumont RCMP had a total of 104 collisions reported with 18 of those involving injuries and no fatalities. Data prior to this is difficult to obtain due to RCMP system maintenance, but numbers have remained consistent over several years despite rapid growth in Beaumont over the last several years.



Below are the locations of the 104 reportable collisions in Beaumont from 2014-2015.

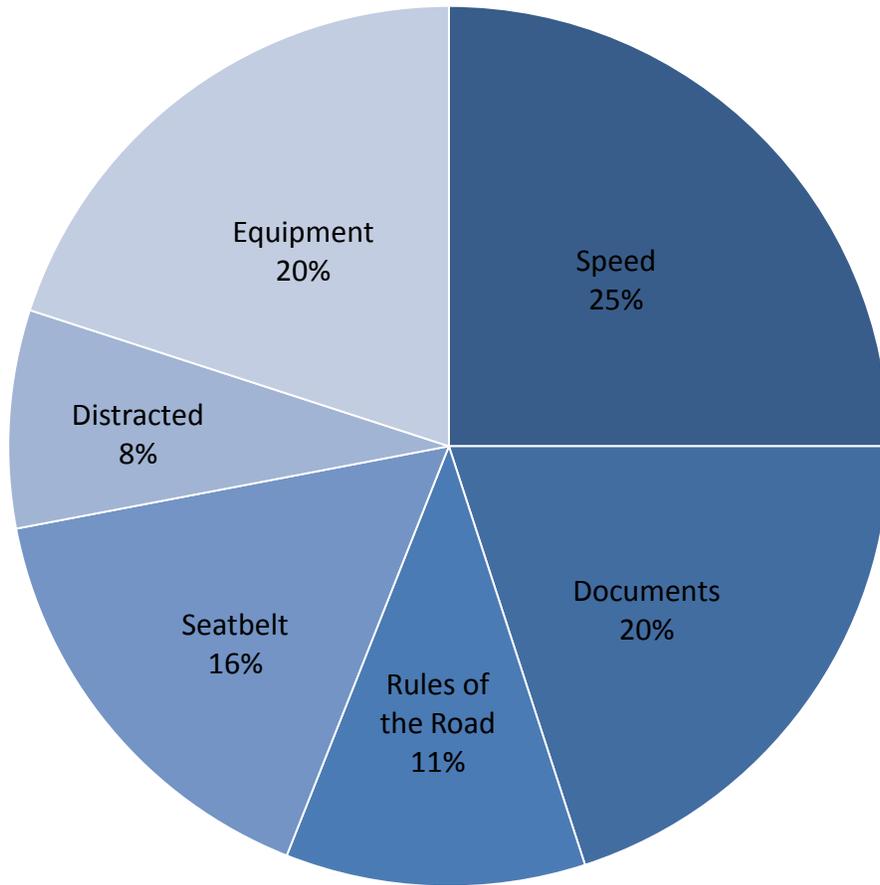


Of the above collisions, some noticed trends:

- **48%** occurred within an intersection from various reasons including unsafe turns, failing to yield/stop and road conditions.
- **20%** occurred within a parking lot, many resulting from unsafe backing up or distracted driving.
- **25%** were a result of some form of distraction including devices or failing to pay attention to the road.
- **24%** were a result of driver skill including failing to back up safely.

VIOLATION STATISTICS

Below are the collected statistics of moving traffic violations for Municipal Enforcement issued from Jan. 1, 2014 – Dec. 31, 2015. In total, 2,843 violations were issued:



Of the above violations:

- Documents include items such as failing to produce required or having required documents for driving such as license, registration and insurance.
- Rules of the Road include stops signs, failing to obey signage and unsafe turns.
- Equipment includes window tint, burnt out lighting and commercial vehicle defects.

LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

The following areas have been identified as areas of concern:

- Six Beaumont school zones.
 - Approximately 25-30% of population is youth. With the high amount of vehicle congestion, reduced speed limits and high pedestrian numbers, these areas need focus.

- 50 Street and 50 Avenue.
 - 39% of collisions over the last few years were in relation to 50 Street and/or 50 Avenue. As a result of them being major thoroughfares in Beaumont and combined with numerous intersections, higher speeds, pedestrians and a school zone, these roads require high focus.

PATROL FOCUS

Based on the areas of concerns and types of violations prevalent, Peace Officers will focus efforts on these areas of concern:

- Patrols of school zones before and after school times when children are arriving to and leaving from schools.

- Patrols of 50 Street and 50 Avenue during the peak times of congestion during the morning and evening traffic rush of commuters.

- Weekend and evening patrols of residential and commercial areas including parking lots when traffic is higher.

- Observation of all intersections during patrols as almost half of all collisions occurred within these areas.

All traffic stops conducted will include document checks to ensure that all paperwork is in order for driver and vehicle, as document issues accounted for 20% of all violations issued in the calendar years: 2014-2015.

PRIORITIES PLAN

Peace Officers deal with all issues that arise but will focus quarterly on Enforcement issues in an attempt to reduce complaints and increase the proactive items that can be enforced.

Many items focused on are portions of the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan Calendar that has monthly areas of focus for traffic enforcement but have been aligned with the Beaumont Municipal Enforcement Annual Priorities Plan for enforcement.

<p>WINTER (December - February)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Zones • Traffic Patrol • Abandoned Vehicles • Parking Patrol 	<p>SPRING (March - May)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Zones • Traffic Patrol • Parking Patrol
<p>SUMMER (June - August)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Patrol • Commercial Vehicles • Parking Patrol 	<p>FALL (September - November)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Zones • Traffic Patrol • Parking Patrol • Abandoned Vehicles



Proactively enforcing these areas will increase statistical numbers, so the desired goal would be to reduce the number of traffic collisions within Beaumont, and subsequently, the number of injuries relating to traffic and roadways. Enforcement will follow the approved Town Traffic Safety Plan and Provincial Traffic Safety Plan for specific areas of concern and include a variety of offenses that occur while driving or parking.

The goal in relation to areas of concern, such as heavy vehicles and school zones, would be achieved through a reduction in complaints and increased satisfaction of the public.

RCMP ENHANCED TRAFFIC SHIFTS

In cases where communities wish to provide traffic services beyond the basic level such as in Beaumont, "enhanced policing" initiatives have been put in place. Enhanced policing is the addition of RCMP shifts for the purpose of targeting particular community problems that cannot otherwise be sufficiently focused on with existing resources. This can help to ensure that communities will still be able to manage ongoing issues without having to hire more resources. It is a strategy that is cost effective for patrols in areas such as school zones and major roadways as to ensure an increased Officer presence for community safety.

CITIZENS ON PATROL

Beaumont RCMP runs a program similar to a neighborhood watch called the Citizen's on Patrol or "C.O.P." Local residents volunteer their time patrolling Beaumont, being an extra set of eyes, looking for areas of concern that Officers may not always see. The C.O.P. will notify the RCMP of any issues that arise for Officers to attend. C.O.P. assists with traffic initiatives by gaining statistics with joint force operations, again being an extra set of eyes for Officers. The C.O.P. has also assisted with gaining speed statistics in areas that have been raised as a possible speed concern for possible Photo Enforcement locations.

PHOTO LASER ENFORCEMENT

As a component to the overall traffic safety of Beaumont and to assist with the major concerns prevalent of speeding and intersection safety, Global Traffic Group has been contracted.

Photo Traffic Enforcement has been conducted to deter speeding and reduce motor vehicle collisions in the Town of Beaumont since 1998. Beaumont's Global Traffic Group contract that started in 2010 ensures compliance with current provincial guidelines. The criteria approved by the Town of Beaumont regarding Photo Traffic Enforcement includes, but is not restricted to, high-risk, high frequency and high-collision locations. It is also essential that Photo Traffic Enforcement be used in conjunction with existing conventional enforcement and not a replacement for Officer contact via traffic stops.

As a balanced approach to enforcement is desired from Officers, the same goal is requested from Global Traffic Group. In consultation with the RCMP detachment commander, focus for Global Traffic Group will balance speed enforcement with intersection enforcement, giving increased focus on intersection safety as a large portion of collisions occur within intersections. A balance on enforcement would assist in educating drivers to obey intersection signage in an attempt to reduce collisions, as well as reducing speeds.

SUMMARY

This document is not to take away from an Officer's ability to use personal discretion during proactive patrols, but instead, to give focus on areas of concern that have been identified within this document. The ultimate goal is to provide a high quality of service in coordination with the community, Town staff, and the RCMP, making life truly better in Beaumont.

The 2016-2018 Traffic Safety Plan will serve as a model of traffic operations for Beaumont Peace Officers, both internal and contracted. It prioritizes initiatives focused on the ability to proactively improve road safety in accordance with the requirements of employers of Community Peace Officers, as outlined by the Public Security Peace Officer Program - Policy & Procedures Manual.

The Plan will be updated every three (3) years as required by legislation and will be reviewed on a regular basis via RCMP collision statistics to see if areas of focus need to be adjusted in order to provide the highest and safest level of service.

In addition to this document, Beaumont Peace Officers shall follow the Municipal Enforcement Annual Priorities Plan that is approved by Council on a calendar basis that outlines all enforcement practices including traffic and parking enforcement within a Peace Officer's authorities on their appointments.