



## ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

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**TO:** Council

**DATE:** April 13, 2021 **DIVISION:** All

**FILE:** N/A **APPLICATION:** N/A

**SUBJECT:** Traffic Safety Act Enforcement on Primary Highways

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Currently in Alberta, Level 1 Community Peace Officers (CPO-1's) are not permitted to enforce traffic regulations on primary highways. The Provincial Government is offering municipalities the option of applying to allow their CPO-1's to conduct Traffic Safety Act enforcement on all highways within their jurisdiction.

This would represent a service level change, and Administration is seeking Council's direction.

### ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

### BACKGROUND:

Administration presented this topic to Council on April 28, 2020. Council requested that a workshop be held to discuss this further. On March 25, 2021, a workshop was held and Administration is now bringing this item back to Council for consideration and debate.

Currently, CPO-1's have authority to conduct Traffic Safety Act enforcement on all County roads and secondary highways. Enforcement on primary highways is only undertaken when CPO-1's are conducting specific enforcement activities with the RCMP, and their participation requires day-to-day permission from the RCMP.

The Alberta Department of Justice and Solicitor General has been reviewing the need for expanded authority in relation to traffic safety, and has determined there is a gap that can be filled by CPO-1's. They are allowing municipalities to apply for the ability to patrol and enforce the Traffic Safety Act on primary highways within the municipality.

The advantages of seeking this added authority include:

- Ability to deal with all Traffic Safety Act violations when CPO-1's are on routine patrols
- A clearer area of responsibility – patrolling the entire municipality, rather than parts of it
- Enhanced ability to respond to speed-related reports/complaints from residents
- Ability to stop unsafe behaviour immediately
- Less red tape, as daily permission to enforce is no longer required
- Potential increased revenue, although – as with all traffic fines – tickets/fines are completely avoidable
- Less impact on policing resources, as CPO-1's could issue tickets and attend court (if needed), whereas the current system requires both the CPO-1 who witnessed the infraction and an RCMP officer to ticket and attend court

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### Administration Resources

Lorraine Wesley, Enforcement Services



The disadvantages of obtaining this approval include:

- The limited number of CPO-1's would be spread over more roads
- May lead to a focus on highway enforcement, where infractions are more numerous

Both disadvantages would be mitigated with an internal Administrative CPO-1 Procedure that would ensure the primary focus remains on County roads.

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

Rocky View County Enforcement Services would not be seeking additional resources should Council choose to pursue the opportunity offered by the Province. The department's focus is on traffic safety, not revenue, but additional funds may be collected if safety concerns warrant tickets.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:**

Should Council and the Province of Alberta approve the change, communication would be undertaken through the County's website and social media. It is unlikely that most County residents are unaware that Community Peace Officers cannot enforce on primary highways, so the change would align with current thinking and not represent a challenge to public awareness.

#### **OPTIONS:**

- Option #1                      THAT Administration be directed to request permission from the Province of Alberta to allow the County COP-1's to conduct Traffic Safety Act enforcement on primary highways.
- Option #2                      THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

"Grant Kaiser"

"Al Hoggan"

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Executive Director  
Community and Business Connections

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Chief Administrative Officer

LW/lw/lis

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT 'A': Map of primary and secondary highways in Rocky View County