



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

TO:	Council	
DATE:	February 22, 2022	DIVISION: 5
FILE:	N/A	APPLICATION: N/A
SUBJECT:	Temporary Road Closure – Sharp Hills	

POLICY DIRECTION:

In accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, Council by resolution or a designated officer if authorized by resolution of the Council, may temporarily close the whole or a part of a road at any time that a construction or maintenance project on or adjacent to the road may create a hazard.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Construction of the 40th Ave Interchange in the City of Airdrie will require the termination of Range Road 294 north of Township Road 264 commencing in or around April 2022 as shown on Attachment 'A'. The traffic currently utilizing this north south connection between the City of Airdrie and Balzac will be required to utilize alternate routes.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

Range Road 294 has served the region providing alternate access to HWY #2 between the City of Airdrie and Balzac, averaging 2200 vehicles per day (vpd) based on traffic counts completed in August 2019. With the construction of the 40th Ave Interchange, the road will need to be terminated to allow for the construction of a northbound off ramp. Currently there are no future plans to reconnect Range Road 294 or provide an alternate route once the interchange is completed. As lands within the City of Airdrie develop, there remains potential for a future connection as shown in Attachment 'A'.

Historically, the community of Sharp Hills to the east and south of the new interchange has encountered issues with traffic connecting between the City of Airdrie south to HWY #566 and the Balzac business district. In 2016, Council supported a speed reduction from 50 km/h to 30 km/h as well as No Truck signage which alleviated some of the concerns. At that time, a questionnaire with residents identified 45% supported an emergency-only access gate to prevent traffic from short cutting through the community. In 2020, at the request of a resident, traffic counts were undertaken showing the average speed through the community to be 42 km/h.

The impending termination of Range Road 294 may result in the majority of the 2200 vpd utilizing Sharp Hills as an alternate route. With all other traffic control measures having been implemented in 2016, it is determined that a temporary road closure be implemented including the installation of an emergency-only access gate as shown in Attachment 'B'. This closure would remain in place until the reconnection of Range Road 294 occurs or traffic impact studies including additional traffic counts determine no negative traffic impacts to the community of Sharp Hills.

Administration Resources

Steven Hulsman, Transportation Services



BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Should Council approve the temporary closure, the costs of installing the gate are within the approved 2022 operating budget.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

All residents of Sharp Hills will be notified in advance with additional warning signage located at both the north and south entrances to the community, informing the general public of the closure.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

The implementation of the temporary closure aligns with Council’s Strategic Objectives to *create a culture of customer service* by reducing the negative impact of increased traffic through the community of Sharp Hills.

OPTIONS:

Option #1: THAT Council direct Administration to implement the temporary road closure as per Attachment ‘B’.

Option #2: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Byron Riemann”

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Executive Director
Operations

Acting Chief Administrative Officer

GR/SH/bg

ATTACHMENTS:

- ATTACHMENT ‘A’: Range Road 294 Termination
- ATTACHMENT ‘B’: Proposed Sharp Hills Temporary Closure