



## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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**TO:** Council  
**DATE:** May 17, 2022 **DIVISION:** 5  
**FILE:** N/A **APPLICATION:** N/A  
**SUBJECT:** Temporary Road Closure – Sharp Hill Update

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### POLICY DIRECTION:

In accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, Council, or a designated officer 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 40<sup>th</sup> Ave Interchange in the city of Airdrie terminated Range Road 294 north of Township Road 264 on April 2022 as shown on Attachment 'A'. Traffic that previously travelled this north-south connection between the City of Airdrie and Balzac is now utilizing alternate routes including roads within the community of Sharp Hill. This report is an update to the Temporary Road Closure – Sharp Hill presented to Council on February 22, 2022. Administration still recommends the initial approved gate location as per Council's direction at the February 22, 2022 meeting.

### 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 40<sup>th</sup> Ave Interchange, the road has been 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 Hill 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, traffic counts were undertaken showing the average speed through the community to be 42 km/h.

Following the February 22, 2022 report to Council, community feedback (39/115 of residents or 33%) was received by Administration expressing concern with the temporary closure. Of this feedback, 40% stated they wanted no closure whatsoever or increased enforcement, 60% requested the gate positioned at the south end of the community, Attachment 'C', so they can continue to easily access Airdrie businesses.

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### Administration Resources

Steven Hulsman, Transportation Services



Upon receiving the community feedback, Administration delayed the temporary closure and performed traffic monitoring to validate the impacts realized by the closure of Range Road 294. In addition, increased traffic enforcement was provided daily to ensure public safety.

Since the closure of Range Road 294, traffic through Sharp Hill has increased from an average of 681 vpd to 2211 vpd, an increase of 1530 vpd, the majority being passenger vehicles. The average speed of vehicles through the community has not increased since the closure and no significant increase in truck traffic has been observed.

From March 23 to May 3, 2022, Enforcement Services patrolled Sharp Hill 28 times spending approximately 28 hours conducting speed/truck enforcement. Of the 28 patrols, 9 resulted in no enforcement effort (no speed or truck violations). For the remaining 19 patrols, there were 52 violation tickets and 6 warnings issued with the majority for speed violations, 4 were for truck violations.

Analysis of this data aligns with previous data including the June to September 2018 closure at the north location to accommodate the construction of 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. During that closure there were no service level impacts realized including snow and ice control and emergency services.

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

All options presented to Council are contained within the approved 2022 operating budget.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:**

All residents of Sharp Hill 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 Hill.

#### **OPTIONS:**

- Option #1: THAT Council direct Administration to implement the temporary road closure as per Attachment 'B'.
- Option #2: THAT Council direct Administration to implement the temporary road closure as per Attachment 'C'.
- Option #3: THAT Council direct Administration to continue monitoring activities and increased enforcement within the community of Sharp Hill.
- Option #4: THAT alternative direction be provided.



Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Byron Riemann”

“Dorian Wandzura”

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Executive Director  
Operations

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Chief Administrative Officer

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT ‘A’: Range Road 294 Termination

ATTACHMENT ‘B’: Proposed Sharp Hills Temporary Closure - North

ATTACHMENT ‘C’: Proposed Sharp Hills Temporary Closure - South