

To: Don Gullekson, Councillor;
Cc: Council
From: Jordan Thompson , Acting CAO
Date: May 27, 2019

Reference: 11/154/2019-165

RE: Train Whistles and Speed in Lacombe

Thank you for your written concern regarding train whistle cessation and the speed of trains within Lacombe's City limits. I have confirmed that whistle cessation has been in effect in the City of Wetaskiwin since 2001.

In 2018 the City hired WATT Consulting Group to complete a safety assessment for all of the rail crossings in Lacombe to determine what upgrades would be needed to ensure the City's rail crossings are in compliance with Transport Canada's 2014 Grade Crossing Standards. By the end of 2021 existing grade crossings must comply with the new standards. This assessment is also the first step in seeking whistle cessation within the City.

WATT completed a draft report in 2018, but representatives from Canada Pacific Railway (CP) were unable to meet to review the report and provide input until April of 2019. The draft report confirms that safety improvements are required before the City can pursue whistle cessation further including improvements to rail warning signage and road markings as well as new safety infrastructure.

The final report outlining the required improvements as discussed with CP, with cost estimates, is expected by the end of May. Council will be presented with the results of the report at their regular meeting on June 24th.

Train speeds are dictated by the Class of track as defined by Transport Canada. To my knowledge there have been no discussions about re-classifying the tracks within the City of Lacombe but we will speak with WATT to discuss, at a high level, the options available to the City, if any, to lower train speeds through Lacombe.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Jordan Thompson, CET, PMP
Acting Chief Administrative Officer