



A Community of Choice



School and Playground Zone Review

Presented to the D&I Committee – April 6, 2016

Overview

- Existing Medicine Hat Practices
- How We Got Here / Why the Review
- Review 1: Use of Areas/Effective Times
 - What we did
 - Findings
 - Other Communities
 - Recommendations
- Review 2: School & Playground Enhancements
 - What we did / Findings
 - Way Forward
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Existing Medicine Hat Practices

56 – Playground Zones



- Speed Limit—30 km/hr.
- In effect from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset
- **Everyday of the year**

1 – School Zones



- Speed Limit—30 km/hr.
- periods of time **on any day that school is held**
- In effect from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. , 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

27 – School Zones (Dual)



- Speed Limit—30 km/hr.
- In effect from 8:00 a.m. to one hour after sunset on any day that school is held.
- All other days in effect from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset
- Implemented in 1996/1997 to enhance pedestrian safety adjacent to schools. Reflects the fact that school playgrounds are used by the public outside of school hours.

How We Got Here

- **1996/1997:** Playground and School Zone Hours of Operation Memorandum
- **2003:** Information Item on School and Playground Zones
- **2007:** New National Guidelines (AT/TAC adopted)
- **2014:** Bill 32
- **2014:** Request from Catholic School Board
- **2014/2015:** Current Review

Why the Review?

- New legislation
- Assess community expectations
- Assess Existing Zones
- Request from Catholic School Board



Focus of Review



Review 1

- Use of School/Playground Areas
- Effective Times of School/Playground Zones

Review 2

- Issues and Challenges with Existing Signage
- Treatment Options

Review 1: Use of Areas

What is a Zone (30km/hr):

- speed restricted
- denoted by a school or playground sign and 30km/hr sign
- speed restriction is placed only during the effective times of the zone

What is an Area (50km/hr):

- non-speed restricted
- denoted by a school or playground sign only
- remains the speed of the roadway at all times

Review 1: If We Adopted Areas

Matrix looks at criteria such as:

- Type of school / number of users of the playground
- Fencing
- Proximity to roadway

AT/TAC School Matrix:

TOTAL SCORE	AREA OR ZONE?
0 – 40	Nothing
41 - 64	SCHOOL AREA
65 - 80	SCHOOL AREA or SCHOOL ZONE*
81 – 100	SCHOOL ZONE

AT/TAC Playground Matrix:

TOTAL SCORE	AREA OR ZONE?
0 – 40	Nothing
41 – 80	PLAYGROUND AREA
81 – 100	PLAYGROUND ZONE

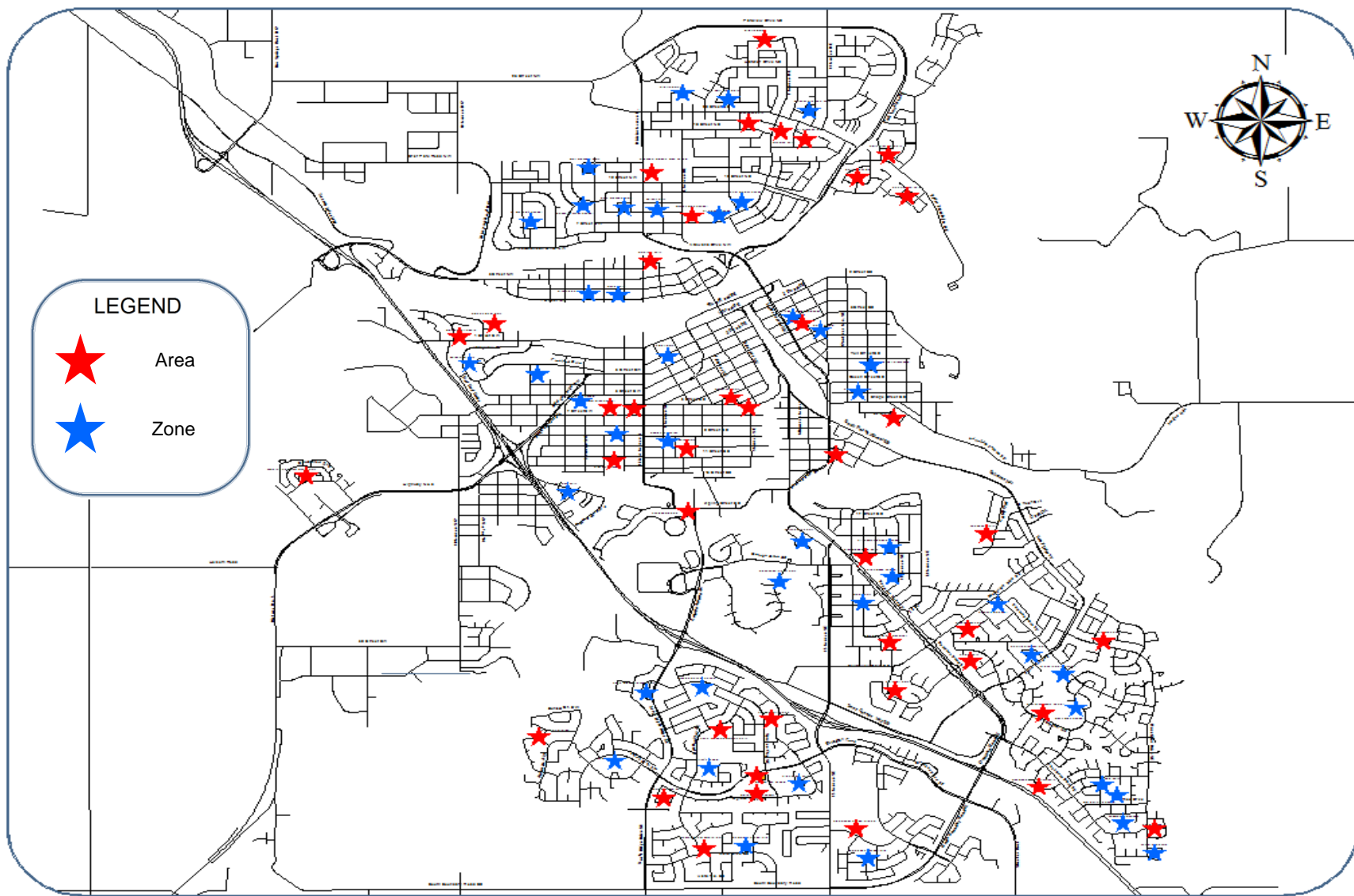
Possible Changes: Schools

7 Areas
20 Zones
1 Removal

Possible Changes: Playgrounds

34 Areas
22 Zones

Review 1: Changes if We Adopted Areas



Review 1: Effective Times

Municipalities have:

- Always had the ability to change the times of school zones
- Now have the ability to change the times of playground zones (Bill 32)

Consideration for Time Selection:

- School hours
- Playground accessibility and usage
- School usage (outside of school hours)
- Time of sunset
- Other communities times
- Community feedback

Review 1: What We Did

Stakeholder Group Engagement:

- City of Medicine Hat – Parks and Recreation
- Medicine Hat Police Service
- Medicine Hat Public School District 76
- Alberta Motor Association
- Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education
- Safety City of Medicine Hat
- SEATS – South Eastern Alberta Traffic Safety

Presentations

- School Board 76 Council of School Councils
- Catholic School Board Parent Association

Public Open Houses:

- October 13, 2015 at Crescent Heights High School
- October 15, 2015 at Mother Teresa School
- Advertised through school news letters, social media, public advisories and signage
- Approximately 70 people in attendance
- ~65 responses

Fall Trade Show:

- October 23 – 25, 2015
- ~70 responses

Online Survey:

- Topics: Areas and Zones, and Effective Times
- Open online from October 1 to November 2, 2015.
- ~165 responses

Literature Review

- Technical reports from other communities
- TAC Conference papers
- TAC and AT Guidelines
- MHPS Traffic Plan 2015-2016

Collision Statistics

- Government of Alberta Collision Statistics

Review 1: Other Communities

Playgrounds

Zones

Areas

Schools

Zones

Areas

	Calgary	Edmonton	Lethbridge	St. Albert
	Yes 7:30 am to 9 pm <i>all year round</i>	No	Yes 8:30 am - one hour after sunset <i>all year round</i>	Yes 8:30 am to one hour after sunset <i>all year around</i>
	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes At elementary and middle schools 7:30 am - 9:00 pm	Yes At elementary and middle schools 8:00 am - 4:30 pm <i>on school days</i>	Yes 8:00 am - 4:30 pm <i>on school days</i>	Yes 8:00 am – 4:00 pm <i>on school days</i>
	No	Yes at high schools	No	No
	Changed all school zones to playground zones for simplicity of singular signage No School/Playground Signage at High Schools Some playgrounds have no signage	Changed school areas at elementary and middle schools to zones in 2014		

Review 1: Findings

Zones and Area

- Stakeholders have split acceptance on the use of areas (50 km/h)
- ~ 80% of community responses accept the use of areas (*only ~300 responses*)
- No consistent practice across Alberta
- Analyzed data since 2010 shows no pedestrian incidents in school/playground zones

Effective Times

Stakeholders and the Community support:

- Changing the effective times
- Making playground and school zones consistent

Review 1: Recommendations

February 2016 - Decision Item

1. Modifying effective times of playground to 7:30 AM to 9:00 PM
2. Do not introduce areas at this time and continue to implement zones
3. Removal of dual zones and implementing **only** playground zones at both schools and playgrounds.

Zones



- Singular Signage
- Clear and Consistent times
- 365 coverage

Review 2: School/Playground Enhancements

What we did:

- Reviewed current signage
- Engaged with stakeholder groups
- Reviewed Calgary's 2013 and 2014 reports
- Reviewed other community practices and reports

Review 2: School/Playground Enhancements

Findings:

- Stakeholders top three issues and challenges were:
 1. Parking congestion
 2. Speeding concerns
 3. Pedestrians crossing issues
- Reports:
 - Focus on 4 Aspects:
 - Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Encouragement
 - Variety of available treatments
 - Treatments may vary for each location
 - Trials are necessary to determine what works in a community

Review 2: Way Forward

February 2016 - Information Item

1. Review and report on the City of Calgary results
2. Municipal Works will:
 - Improve consistency with existing signage and provide clarity to users
 - Implement 6 alternative treatment trials throughout 12 Medicine Hat School and Playground locations.
 - Implement an education plan regarding school and playground safety for the community

Next Steps

- Bylaw Amendment – Spring 2016
- Signage Implementation – Spring 2016
- New Times in Effect – September 1, 2016
- Public Education – Summer/Fall 2016
- Trial Implementation – 2017