

T O W N O F L A D Y S M I T H
G O V E R N M E N T S E R V I C E S C O M M I T T E E

Mandate –To advise Council on a broad spectrum of issues related to departmental matters

Monday, September 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

A G E N D A

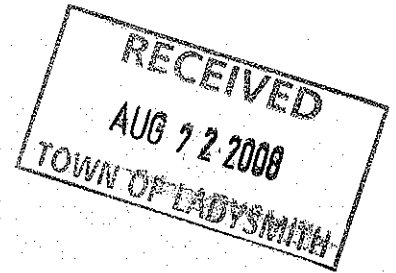
Pages

Chairperson: Councillor Doug Fraser

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
3. **MINUTES**
 - August 18, 2008
4. **DELEGATION**
None
5. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**
6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**
7. **STAFF REPORTS**
None.
8. **MEMBER SUBMISSIONS**
None.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - .1 Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Re: Use of Engine Brakes in Residential Areas - Ladysmith 1 - 2
 - .2 Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Re: July 7, 2008 Meeting Summary – Posted Speed Limits on the
Trans Canada Highway between South Davis Road and North Davis Road. 3 - 4
 - .3 Ladysmith Golf Club Society – Bob Heyes, President
Re: Request for elimination or reduction of maintenance and utility charges
to the Society. 5
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

ADJOURNMENT

August 21, 2008



Mayor Robert Hutchins
Town of Ladysmith
PO Box 220
Ladysmith, BC V9G 1A2

Dear Mayor Hutchins:

RE: Use of Engine Brakes in Residential Areas (Ladysmith)

Thank for you for your letter of August 11 2008, regarding use of engine brakes on the Trans Canada Highway (TCH), bordering residential areas in south Ladysmith.

In 2006, the Ministry reviewed its policy for signage concerning the use of engine brakes. From this review, a new policy was released which can be found electronically at:
http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/Circulars/All/T_Circ/2006/t05-06d.pdf.

The policy updated the signage for engine brakes, replacing the existing messaging reading "Please! Avoid Use of Engine Brakes in Urban Areas" with a new message reading "Residential Area – Avoid Using Engine Brakes – Excessive Noise Prohibited". Existing signs were to be replaced with the new messaging when signs reached the end of their lifecycle, were damaged, or on public request.

The south Ladysmith portion of the TCH is currently signed with the older messaging, "Please! Avoid Use of Engine Brakes in Urban Areas". As a result of your request to review existing signage and others recently received from members of the public, we will move forward with replacing the older engine brake signs along the TCH with the new messaging.

The new signs are intended to encourage commercial vehicle operators to avoid use of engine brakes; however, the signs do not entirely restrict the use of engine brakes.

Engine brakes improve braking capabilities on trucks, consequently improving overall operational safety. It is for this reason that the Ministry prefers not to impose restrictions on the use of engine brakes on Ministry roads.

.../2

Mayor Rob Hutchins
August 21, 2008
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Because of many lengthy downhill grades, north and southbound on the TCH at the South end of Ladysmith, commercial vehicles may need to use their engine brake to ensure they maintain safe vehicle operations on these grades.

I will also bring forward your concern regarding the over-use of engine brakes to our A/Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Manager, Stacy McCrae, so as she can advise her staff to be mindful of this issue.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this in more detail, please feel free to contact District Engineer, Janelle Erwin, via email at Janelle.Erwin@gov.bc.ca or via telephone at (250) 751-3281. You are also welcome to contact me directly at 250-751-3282 or by email at Barbara.Thomas@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,



Barbara R. Thomas, P.Eng.
District Manager, Transportation
Vancouver Island District

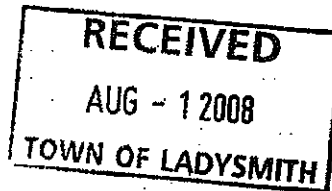
cc: Janelle Erwin, District Engineer (EIT)
Stacy McCrae, A/District CVSE Manager
Andy Newall, Area Manager, Roads



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

July 31, 2008



Joe Friesenhan, A.Sc.T.
Director of Public Works
Town of Ladysmith
P.O. Box 220
Ladysmith BC V9G 1A2

Re: July 7 2008 Meeting Summary

Dear Mr. Friesenhan:

Thank you for arranging the opportunity to meet with yourself and S/Sgt. Sid Gray of the Ladysmith RCMP on July 7 2008 to discuss the issue of posted speeds limits on the Trans Canada Highway between South Davis Road and North Davis Road.

For our records, I have outlined a brief summary of the meeting, as it related to the issue of speed on the Trans Canada Highway:

- Ministry reiterated that roadway geometrics are a key element in establishing posted limits. Roadway geometrics between existing 70 km/h speed zone near Roberts Street and South Davis Road meet those of a 90 km/h facility. Accesses are very limited and roadway is separated through median barrier;
- Ministry reiterated that crash history does not indicate this to be a high crash section of road, nor does it indicate a trend of speed related crashes;
- Recent and past speed studies conducted on this stretch of road were discussed;
- Cpl. Sid Gray noted that, at this time, the RCMP does not see a need to extend the existing 70 km/h zone on the Trans Canada Highway to South Davis Road (nor to Coronation Mall). At this time, the RCMP feels the posted 90 km/h limit is reasonable for this stretch of roadway.
- Joe Friesenhan requested that consideration be given to, at minimum, extending the 70 km/h speed zone to just beyond the signalized intersection of North Davis/Chemainus;
- Ministry responded saying roadway geometrics do not support this change in limit and as such, the request must be declined.
- Joe Friesenhan noted that during the Vancouver Island Highway Project (VIHP), the Town of Ladysmith was given the understanding that the section of roadway in question was being designed for 70 km/h, however, when designs were completed, they were done so for a design speed of 90 km/h, to the displeasure of the Town of Ladysmith;

Ministry of
Transportation and
Infrastructure

Vancouver Island District
South Coast Region

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www.gov.bc.ca/tran

Joe Friesenhan
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- Ministry responded that we have no correspondence which speaks to this, and we must defer to engineering principles for setting speed limits.

I trust this accurately summarizes our meeting, as both you and S/Sgt. Sid Gray have had the opportunity to review and comment on the accuracy of the above bullets prior to my sending this letter.

I recognize that it may appear as though we've reached a stalemate with respect to the issue of speed limits. However, from an engineering perspective, there is little that can be done to further address this issue, as all engineering rationales suggest that the current limit is reasonable.

Sincerely,



Janelle Erwin
A/District Engineer
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

cc: S/Sgt. Sid Gray, Ladysmith RCMP Detachment

September 4, 2008

To the Honourable Mayor Hutchins:

The Ladysmith Golf Club Society has been a town institution for 20 years, providing enjoyable recreation for our community at very affordable prices. Each year, the management and maintenance of the grounds requires countless volunteer hours. These hours are generously provided by the directors, club members and their spouses, and the community. With a declining membership each year, the board of directors has taken initiatives to create more interest in the golf course. This past season saw the return of several successful club tournaments, discount days and special mornings for the ladies and men. Our community's senior citizens enjoy golfing here almost 365 days a year. In an effort to promote youth participation, a CPGA golf program was offered for ages 8-14. Money was donated to the golf course to provide prizes for a "hole-in-one" and local advertising was stepped up to attract more golfers to the club. Local businesses have contributed their time and services to our kid's fun tournaments. This year, a \$7 entry fee provides kids aged 8-14 a fun filled afternoon of golf, food, and prizes.

Despite efforts to promote the Ladysmith Golf Club, it is unable to generate profits needed for building improvements, maintenance equipment, or additional clubhouse attendants. The building that serves as our clubhouse is in total disrepair, and with two break-ins in the past three weeks, more repairs are needed. With no positive income stream, it is difficult to build up funds for any improvements. In an effort to decrease expenses, the Board of Directors would respectfully like to request the Town of Ladysmith consider its agreement with other sports associations within the community and reduce or eliminate the costs charged to the Golf Club Society for maintenance and utilities. It is our understanding that other clubs may not pay fees.

Total amounts paid for 2007 and 2008 to date, are as outlined below.

Maintenance Costs:		Water Utilities:		Total:
2007	\$3924.88	2007	\$875.45	\$4800.33
June 2008	\$724.50	2008 Sprinkler	\$1680.00	
July 2008	724.50	Maintenance		
Aug 2008	724.50			\$3853.50
Sep 2008	724.50 owing			
Oct 2008	724.50 owing			\$5302.50

The board and its members believe the future of the golf course lies in our community youth, whether in the form of programs, membership, or employment opportunities. It is our mandate to continue to promote youth participation and membership, and provide a safe environment for kids to learn a lifelong sport. Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bob Heyes
President