



**MAYOR STEPHEN MANDEL**  
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May 7, 2008

The Honourable Luke Ouellette  
Minister of Transportation  
Room 320, Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Ouellette: *luke*

At the March 4, 2008, meeting of the Transportation and Public Works Committee of Edmonton City Council, the following motion was passed:

- 1. That Administration forward a list of issues regarding Anthony Henday Drive, including: increased traffic noise; prohibited use of engine retarder brakes; and impact of concrete wearing surface versus asphalt, to Edmonton Police Service and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and that any response be reported back to Transportation and Public Works Committee.*

To provide you with some context regarding the motion, traffic noise continues to be a significant concern for citizens living in residential communities abutting Anthony Henday Drive. Recognizing that Anthony Henday Drive is under Provincial jurisdiction, efforts have been made by Edmonton City Council and by Administration to communicate the City's limitations in dealing with this particular traffic noise issue, and to redirect inquiries and concerns to Alberta Transportation. However, citizens continue to look to their City Council for leadership and action on this matter.

In addition to the general increase in traffic noise resulting from the opening of new extensions of Anthony Henday Drive, citizens are particularly concerned about the use of concrete pavement, which is perceived to be "noisier" than asphalt pavement, and by the noise of trucks using engine retarder brakes, despite such use being prohibited within city Limits.

With respect to the issue of concrete versus asphalt pavement, the Transportation Department concurs with the findings of the Province's acoustical consultant that there is a negligible difference in sound levels between the two pavement types.

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With respect to the issue of noise related to the use of engine retarder brakes, the Transportation Department has confirmed that the responsibility for enforcement lies with the Edmonton Police Service, with some additional enforcement provided by the Provincial Sheriffs (Alberta Peace Officers). This letter is copied to Police Chief Mike Boyd to reinforce the importance of ongoing enforcement targeting the illegal use of engine retarder brakes on Anthony Henday Drive. Additionally, I would like to add my support for the timely construction of grade-separated interchanges on the western portion of Anthony Henday Drive. The removal of the at-grade intersections will do much to alleviate the need for trucks to decelerate and stop, thus reducing brake noise, in addition to the obvious operational improvements for the movement of people and goods along this important highway corridor.

I look forward to your response with respect to this matter.

Yours truly,



Stephen Mandel  
Mayor

cc: Chief Mike Boyd, Edmonton Police Service