

Automated Traffic Enforcement



2019 Annual Report

VISION: To provide a safe community for all drivers and pedestrians

MISSION: To identify strategies to save the lives of Hinton residents and those who drive through the community

GOAL: To reduce motor vehicle collisions within the Town of Hinton and ensuring it is a safe community in which to travel





Traffic Enforcement Statistics

2019

The Town of Hinton, population 9,882 (Canada Census 2016), is in west-central Alberta, Canada. Hinton is in Yellowhead County, 81 kilometres northeast of Jasper and about 284 kilometres west of Alberta's capital city, Edmonton, at the intersection of Highway 16 and Highway 40, in the Athabasca River valley.

Hinton is a progressive, dynamic community and features many outdoors activities and tourist attractions. Being surrounded by both National Parks and Provincial Parks, Hinton provides a great number of opportunities for fishing, hiking, biking, off-roading, and camping. Hinton is also home to over 50 km of hiking/biking trails all within the town, as well as the popular Wild Mountain Music Festival.

Both tourist attractions, outdoor lifestyle, as well as industry are all significant contributors to the towns growing economy. The Town of Hinton relies heavily on the industry sector, specifically oil, gas and forestry. Hinton is also situated in proximity to multiple coal mines, also contributing to local economy and growth. This is highlighted by the opening of Bighorn Mining Ltd. coal mine.

The RCMP is the contracted police force for the community. The current 2019 detachment compliment is made up of 22 RCMP members of which 3 are GIS members, and an additional 5 administration staff (4 municipal, 1 federal). The Town also employs two level 1 Community Peace Officers, a Protective Services Coordinator, and a Protective Services Manager. The Town of Hinton is under contract with Global Traffic Group Ltd to operate Automated Traffic Enforcement technology through until December 31, 2021. All employees who operate through the contracted service are designated Peace Officers and are entitled to use the technology as detailed in the Provincial Automated Traffic Technology Guidelines.

The use of automated enforcement is done in direct consultation with the Protective Services Manager / RCMP to provide additional traffic enforcement in areas of highest concern. These have included sections along Highway 16 which are posted at 60 km/h and 80 km/h, school zones and major arterial roadways where speeding has been identified as a serious problem/concern.

The Traffic Safety Plan encompasses a strategic outlook to traffic safety. This plan provides guidance to local law enforcement partners in implementing a coordinated enforcement effort toward achieving a reduction in the number of collisions, deaths, and injuries in our community. The intent of the Traffic Safety Plan for the Town of Hinton is to reduce the number of collisions, deaths, and injuries on Alberta's roads. It is based on the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan 2019-2021 and use a Safer System Approach, which aims to encourage safer drivers, safer vehicles, and safer roads.

Priorities are addressed using number of core strategies including education and communications, new technologies in relation to automated enforcement, and local enforcement initiatives executed in partnership with the RCMP and Community Peace Officers.

Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) continues to play an active role in our community by reducing speed protecting our intersections and citizens. In addition to conventional law enforcement through the Town’s police service (RCMP) and Community Peace Officers, ATE is used as another tool to carry out enforcement of these violations.

All locations (or “zones”) where ATE is used are approved by the Detachment Commander of the Hinton RCMP, based on data that aligns with the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General’s Automated Traffic Enforcement Technology Guideline. For each location, a “justification sheet” is completed.

The Town maintains a list of all locations approved and used. This list is publicly available on the Town of Hinton’s website, located at www.hinton.ca. The Town also provides public access to the justification sheets and supporting data through its [website](#), where users can access an interactive map.

Hinton reviews traffic count information, intersection survey reports, RCMP data collection, and Alberta traffic collision stats on an annual basis. Roadway signage is reviewed annually as well by the Town and the ATE contractor to ensure that all locations are signed as required by the Guidelines.

Current collision data on each of the specific locations was not readily available to the Town in 2019, and not directly factored into the justification. However, overall collision observations and anecdotal collision information from the police was considered. In previous years we used Alberta traffic collision data from 2011-2015.

In 2017, the Town of Hinton also erected portable speed signs to also inform drivers of their speed and to provide warning to drivers to slow down if their vehicle is speeding. These signs are moved throughout the community within Town limits. There has been a reduction of speed related ATE tickets in the corresponding zones. These signs also record and collect traffic data, and based on this data, there still are a significant number of violations occurring in some areas.

The following are the statistics of ATE in Hinton, for the past 5 years (2015 – 2019):

Year	Total Offenses Committed	Total Tickets Issued	Total Stop Sign Offenses Committed	Stop Sign Tickets Issued	Total Hours
2019	4,197	2,203	Program Dormant	Program Dormant	947
2018	6,466	4,784	Program Dormant	Program Dormant	1,586
2017	6,597	4,749	1,622	869	2,931
2016	17,434	13,574	3,097	1,955	3,232
2015	27,223	22,065	2,073	1,302	3,330

*Decrease in total offenses from 2015 due to zone and hour reductions