

Town of Olds Traffic Safety Amendment

School Zone vs. Playground Zone



Restrictions are in effect during school days only (does not include summer) and are from:
8:00am – 9:30am;
11:30am – 1:30pm; and
3:00pm – 4:30pm



Restrictions are in effect year-round every day from 7:30 am to 1 hour after sunset.

Concerns with School Zones

- Safety of pedestrians, especially **CHILDREN**, and cyclists.
- Children are present at schools and outside of schools, regardless of the time of day.
- School playgrounds are available outside of school hours, during non school days, and during summer months.
- School Zones can give children and parents a false sense of security during non school zone hours on potentially hazardous roadways.

Survival Rates

Higher Vehicle Speeds Increase Likelihood of Pedestrians/Cyclists Dying in Collisions



10%
likelihood of
pedestrian/cyclist fatality




30%
likelihood of
pedestrian/cyclist fatality



85%
likelihood of
pedestrian/cyclist fatality

Source: Cities Safer by Design (2015)
wri.org/publication/cities-safer-design

 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Consideration

Travelling at a slower speed gives a driver more time to react, broadens their field of vision, and reduces the chance of motorists taking their eyes off the road to determine time of day.

It also gives others, including cyclists and pedestrians, more time to react to an approaching vehicle.

The chance of a pedestrian being seriously injured or killed if struck by a car is 45% if the car is travelling at 30 mph (**48 km/h**) but only 5% at 20 mph (**30 km/h**)”

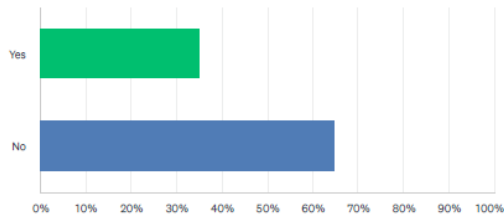
Pilkington, Paul. “Reducing the Speed Limit to 20 Mph in Urban Areas: Child Deaths and Injuries Would Be Decreased.” *BMJ: British Medical Journal*, vol. 320, no. 7243, 2000, pp. 1160–1160.



Traffic Adjustment Survey Results

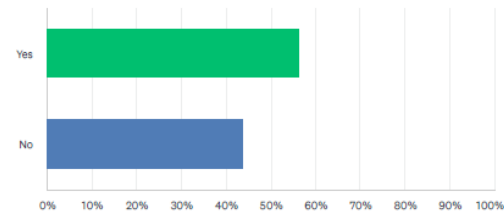
Q1 Do you support a general reduction of speed in residential streets?
(From 50km/h to 40km/h)

Answered: 829 Skipped: 1



Q2 Do you support the conversion of school zones into playground zones?
(Standardized times year-round)

Answered: 827 Skipped: 3



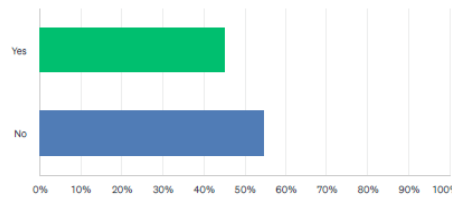
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	35.22%	292
No	64.78%	537
TOTAL		829

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.35%	466
No	43.65%	361
TOTAL		827

466

Q3 Would you support additional municipal resources focused specifically on traffic enforcement?

Answered: 825 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.21%	373
No	54.79%	452
TOTAL		825

Option 1 – No changes

Benefit

- Things remain the same
- No additional signage cost
- No additional speed limit patrolling needed
- Make changes as necessary or when required

Risks

- Residential peace and safety
- Pedestrian safety near schools
- Cyclist safety
- Societal costs when a collision does occur
- Public scrutiny

Option 2 – Change School Zones to Playground Zones

École Olds Elementary, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Deer Meadow School with the addition of Centennial Park

Benefit

- Protect children and their guardians that walk to school and/or play on the playground
- May slow drivers down
- Possibly less accidents in school zones
- Higher penalty when disobeying the speed limit
- School zone speed limits are already highly patrolled

Risks

- Residential peace and safety
- Cyclist safety in residential zones
- Societal costs when a collision does occur in residential zones
- Not taking preventative measures to protect those in residential areas
- Signage and labour costs
- Public scrutiny

Option 3 – Increase enforcement with any combination of Option 1&2

Benefit

- Ensure that speed limits are being followed
- Ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists
- Increased ability to penalize those who disobey the law
- Reduction in possible collisions
- May slow drivers down

Risks

- Costly
- Possible inability to focus on speed control, if other issues are pressing
- Will need an increase in speed limit patrolling
- Public scrutiny

Questions?