

May 22, 2013

Hello,

I have been a resident of Saskatchewan all my life. I have three children and I worry for their safety with the substandard drivers we see, especially in Saskatoon. I am also a professional Safety Officer.

I have a number of recommendations I hope that could potentially be applied to any town/city/highway.

In general my recommendations are as follows:

- Intersection Safety, Wildlife Concerns, Public Awareness Provide better education/re-education and advertising. The use of television advertisement and the showing driving standards I feel would be very effective in teaching and encouraging basic driving standards again. Re-educating people that rolling stops are a no-no and what a yield sign actually means would help everyone. We need to get more personal with young men and women by bringing the driver safety education and consequences directly to the schools by way of presentations and discussions on a regular basis. The television anti-drinking and driving advertisements do not appear to be very well done.

- Every school and every park should automatically have STOP signs and/or Traffic Lights (as reasonably practicable) on all sides, uncontrolled intersections near schools and parks should be criminal.

I had mentioned this to the City of Saskatoon (who removed stop signs) and received comments like "Well Stop signs do not always stop people". Well having no STOP signs sure does not stop or even slow someone down and a YIELD sign is almost as bad as no sign from my observations of other drivers here. I quit counting all the times that I have almost been struck by people racing through YIELD signs over the last year or so since the city put YIELD signs in by the park and school near our home.

Further comments from the city were in essence, "we will not evaluate signs further unless at least five serious accidents such as adults or children being maimed or killed occur in a certain time period". As a Safety Professional these comments almost make me ill. As an employer you have to be pro-active under the various legal standards not reactionary, unless you are a City dealing with the public apparently. If you care about your citizens and children who use the park and schools then be serious about it not deaf and blind.

- Every school and every park should automatically have a reduced speed limit on all sides. 30 kmph for example. I have no concern for windbags that somehow feel inconvenienced because they wish to rush to work through school and park areas. I agree that traffic flow design in the city is poor but taking that extra 30 seconds to drive more slowly through a school zone could save a child's life.

- I have almost been struck several times in crosswalks by people on their cell phones driving through red lights in downtown Saskatoon on busy workdays. I would like to see fines raised to a minimum of \$500 - 1500 and perhaps have cell phones and/or vehicles taken away. Traffic cameras would be handy in issuing

such tickets and while there is a cost, the down town areas would also receive better security as there would not be cameras in the area.

- I would like to see more cities and the government try to make money on traffic violations by use of red light cameras and catching speeding violator on cameras as well. Use the money for better enforcement technologies, Police Officers and associated equipment. Put up cameras on areas of the highway as well. Just from Circle Drive in Saskatoon on any given day the city could make hundreds of thousands of dollars by placing some cameras on the underside of the overpasses.

Also where Circle Drive on the North side begins to merge with Warman Road is a curvy high speed crash area. The speed limit of 70 km is hidden behind signs and posts and is also ignored by drivers. The speed limit should be reduced along the entire curve area across the bridge down to 50 and signs stating 70 placed before the bridge when approaching the curve. A few years ago the city finally quit replacing the wooden barricades every week that used to be there and installed a concrete one. I appreciate that the city stepped up gravelling/salting the curve since, but more should be done.

- Impaired driving - in addition to the fines, if someone is caught driving impaired also automatically have the vehicle taken away for 1 month and suspend the driver's license for the same amount of time. Subsequent offences increase the penalty exponentially. Would be nice if Drivers licenses were set up as a swipe card and would have to be used for every alcohol purchase. A driver's license than could be red flagged like a bad credit card and the cashier could refuse to sell the alcohol to the driver.

Thank you for your time.

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