

Community Standards Bylaw Policy Review

The City is developing a Community Standards Bylaw (CSB). The CSB will serve to regulate and enable activities that pertain to the safety, health, and welfare of residents on private and public property.

To inform a policy discussion on each of the topics, information has been assembled in the template below on what the current local context is, what other comparator municipalities have done, Administration's recommendations concerning minimum standards, as well as potential financial and operational implications.

TOPIC NAME: Prohibited Noise - Motor Vehicles and Off Highway Vehicles

1. CURRENT SPRUCE GROVE BYLAWS

[Spruce Grove Traffic Bylaw](#)

- “Disturbing Noise” means any sound or volume of noise caused by or emanating from a Motor Vehicle that annoys or disturbs humans, or endangers the health and safety of humans and includes but is not limited to:
 - the revving of an internal combustion engine;
 - the squealing of tires;
 - rapid acceleration;
 - loud roaring or explosive sounds;
 - sounds from a radio, stereo, television, or other device within the Motor Vehicle;
 - any sound that exceeds Sound Levels of 92 decibels (dba) or more as measured by a Sound Level Meter at 50 CM from the Point of Reception while the Motor Vehicle's engine is idling; or
 - any sound that exceeds Sound Levels of 96 decibels (dba) or more as measured by a Sound Level Meter at 50 CM from the Point of Reception while the Motor Vehicle's engine is at any RPM greater than idle ([COSG Traffic Bylaw](#) , s.1.10.1)
- The use of engine retarder brakes is prohibited within the City. ([COSG Traffic Bylaw](#) , s.12.8)
- Disturbing Noises (a) A person must not make, continue, or allow to be made or continue any Disturbing Noise. (b) Subsection 15.7(a) does not apply to persons operating emergency vehicles. (Bylaw C-1198-22, May 9, 2022) ([COSG Traffic Bylaw](#) , s.15.7)

[Spruce Grove Noise Control Bylaw](#) addresses noise of motor vehicles and off highway vehicles.

- The use of Engine Retarder Brakes is prohibited within the City Limits. Such limits shall include that portion of Highway 16A, which passes through the City. ([COSG Noise Control Bylaw](#) , s.3.5)

2. SPRUCE GROVE CONTEXT

Motor vehicle/off-highway vehicle noise has become a growing concern. Vehicle noise is one of the most difficult issues to enforce. Unless an enforcement officer is present to hear or test the noise, it is very challenging. Therefore, this issue is generally enforced on a proactive basis.

Council has approved changes to the Traffic Bylaw and purchase of decibel readers to address this issue.

3. OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Edmonton

- [Edmonton CSB](#), ss.13-14 address noise-related definitions but are not specific to motor vehicles.
- [Edmonton CSB](#), ss.18,18(1) indicate that one cannot use engine retarder brakes to slow/stop at anytime.
- [Edmonton CSB](#), s.23(1)(2) Owner liable for noisy vehicle unless owner not present/did not give consent for another person to use vehicle.

Beaumont

- [Beaumont CSB](#), s.52 Owner of vehicle is liable if motor vehicle is cause of excessive noise.

Strathcona County

- [Strathcona CSB](#), ss. 6(b) and 8 indicate that Owner of motor vehicle/off highway vehicle shall ensure no noise originates from vehicle.

St. Albert

[St. Albert Noise Bylaw](#) addresses excessive noise generally and that of motor vehicles, off-highway vehicles as well as permits and penalties.

4. ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Minimum Standards are those listed in existing COSG Traffic and Noise Control Bylaws.

Committee Question: Is there a desire to add time frames to the decibel limits?

As this topic was just reviewed with Council in 2022, Administration recommends keeping it the same. If desired, the penalties for subsequent offences could potentially be increased (subject to a legal review).

5. FINANCIAL AND OPERATION IMPLICATIONS

Additional enforcement measures may be required depending on Committee's direction.