



Cst. Mike HILL
Eston RCMP Community Detachment

Your File

Ministry of Highways

Our File

2023/05/16

To Whom ever it may Concern;

Highway 44 West and Highway 30 North from Eston, Sk.

I have been a member of the RCMP for over 13 years with 10 of those years being posted here in Eston, Sk. In my 13 years working all over this province I can say without a doubt that the two major highways that lead in and out of Eston are the worst highways I have traveled on.

In ten years I have responded to several collisions on both highways that were caused by poor road conditions, the worst of which involved a police vehicle. In the collision the police vehicle was heading to a priority call with lights and sirens activated and lost control on the rough, rutted road and slammed into a power pole. Both members survived with minor injuries but the police vehicle was written off. I am unable to provide an exact number for the other collisions, but I can attest that I have attended a lot of vehicles that were in the ditch that had been bounced off or were thrown off the road due to poor conditions.

Aside from the collisions there are other issues that arise from the condition of the highways. Wear and tear on vehicles and the safe response time of emergency vehicles. As stated above I am posted to the Eston RCMP community detachment. I am the only officer currently posted here. We are an amalgamated unit with Kindersley and Kerrobert, Saskatchewan and cover a very large detachment area. With current conditions our response time in and out of Eston is not as good as it should be due to officer safety on the highways. Officers are required to slow down to a very slow speed to safely get to a call where every minute matters. It is so bad on Highway 44 that about a week ago I was heading to a call in Eston, slowed down to 60km/h as I knew the road was particularly bad in that spot and, almost lost control of my police truck. It started bouncing all over the road and almost ended up in the ditch. Highway 30 is just as bad and to make it worse that Highway is narrower.

The last major issue is the wear and tear caused to the police vehicle and its equipment. The rough condition of the highways beats up the suspension, tires and steering, just to name a few parts that need to be serviced or replaced sooner then other Police Vehicles in our fleet.

In my 10 years in Eston I have had to have the suspension replaced on all the police vehicles I have had issued. The same vehicles in Kindersley and Kerrobert do not require this same work done. I have also require a wheel alignment every six months or so as the tires on my police truck start to wear bad.

In conclusion the condition of Highway 44 and 30 is unacceptable and unsafe. The efforts to patch/repair the highway have only made it worse. The state of disrepair of the highways pose a great safety risk to police, fire, EMS and the public that must travel on the roads to get to and from appointments and what not. At the rate of the highways deterioration it is only a matter of time before we have a fatality on Highway 44 or 30 that could have been prevented.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



Cst. Mike HILL

Eston RCMP