



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee Date: September 29, 2004
 From: Victor Wei, P. Eng. File: 10-6450-06-02/2004-Vol
 Acting Director, Transportation 01
 Re: "RESPECT SLOW MOVING FARM VEHICLES" ROAD SIGNAGE

Staff Recommendation

That the attached staff report regarding the current status of implementing road signage and regulations for the protection of slow-moving farm vehicles on public roadways, as directed by Council at its regular meeting on September 13, 2004, be received for information.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Acting Director, Transportation
(4131)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY						
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
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REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
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Staff Report

Origin

At the September 13, 2004 regular Council meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

That staff be directed to provide status reports on:

(1) the installation of signage indicating "Respect Slow Moving Vehicles" along those routes being used by farm equipment, and provide information on why these signs had not yet been erected; and

(2) a previous request to create a bylaw which would provide assistance to farmers when moving their farm equipment on Richmond roads.

This report responds to the above Council referral. In particular, it outlines the existing signage and legislation with respect to slow moving vehicles and addresses the request to create a bylaw to assist slow moving farm vehicles.

Staff have conducted thorough research on all Council referrals regarding this issue for the past 10 years and have found that all previous referrals have been acted on in a timely manner.

Analysis

1. Existing Road Signage

The City of Richmond introduced "Respect Slow Moving Farm Vehicles" signage along roads typically used by farmers in the late 1980's. These signs were large, approximately 1.2 meters by 2.4 meters, and mounted on two posts with the text "Respect Slow Moving Farm Vehicles" and the silhouette of a farm tractor (see Exhibit 1).

These signs can be found along the following roads;

- Gilbert Rd, south of Steveston Hwy.
- Westminster Hwy, between No 6 Rd and No 9 Rd.
- No 6 Rd, between River Rd and Steveston Hwy.
- No 7 Rd, between River Rd and Westminster Hwy.
- No 8 Rd, between the Hwy 91 overpass and Blundell Rd.
- Sidaway Rd, between Westminster Hwy and Steveston Hwy.



Exhibit 1: Signage as introduced in late 1980s.

In 1993, the large signs were superseded by the standard warning signs as per the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and replaced as maintenance required or, as in the case with Westminster Highway, during road upgrades (see Exhibit 2).

During the last year, several requests to have additional "Respect Slow Moving Farm Vehicles" signs installed along routes commonly used by farmers to access their fields and facilities have been directed to the Transportation Department. A recent request came via the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) during Summer 2004. At that time, a survey of the roads east of No. 6 Road was conducted and any missing signs were replaced due to theft or vandalism.

As a result of a more recent check of the signage, signs are being installed or replaced on:

- No 3 Rd south of Steveston Hwy,
- No 4 Rd south of Steveston Hwy,
- No 9 Rd south of Westminster Hwy, and
- Blundell Rd, from Sidaway Rd to No 6 Rd.

While it has been confirmed that previously requested signs were installed, in order to ensure that appropriate road signage is maintained for these slow moving vehicles, staff are committed to working with the AAC on an on-going basis to identify any additional farm equipment routes that require signage.

2. Traffic Bylaw

Richmond Traffic Bylaw 5870 is silent with regard to slow moving vehicles as they are adequately addressed in the provincial Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) Regulations, which allow slow moving vehicles to use public roadways (see Attachment 1).

Municipal ability to add a subsection to the Traffic Bylaw regarding slow moving vehicles is not authorized under the MVA, Section 124, Municipal Powers. The RCMP, not City Bylaw Enforcement Officers, enforce moving motor vehicle violations, and the RCMP will use the Provincial Acts and Regulations to assist slow moving vehicles. Some of the concerns farm vehicle drivers may have as they travel on the roadways can be addressed by enforcement of driving violations made by drivers such as following too close, unsafe passing and driving without due care and attention. The RCMP is supportive of slow moving farm vehicles provided that the regulations regarding these vehicles are adhered to as outlined below.

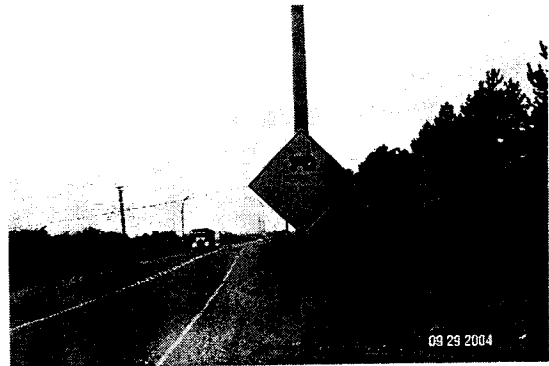
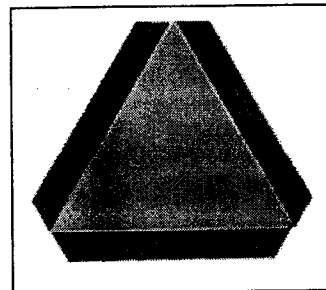


Exhibit 2: New MUTCD signage.

3. Suggestions for Drivers of Slow Moving Vehicles

Farm vehicle owners and drivers can assist the RCMP and the public by ensuring their farm vehicles display the standard slow moving vehicle sign (see Exhibit 3). MVA Regulations require that all vehicles travelling at or below 40 km/h on a public road be equipped with this slow vehicle warning device (CSA Standard D 198-1967).



In addition, the RCMP would contribute positively by participating in any future discussions regarding concerns that farmers may have with any discourteous driving by the general public on roads frequented by farm vehicles. The Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (found at www.farsha.bc.ca) may also have information regarding the safe operation of farm vehicles on public roads.

Exhibit 3: Slow Moving Vehicle Sign.

4. Suggested Actions

Based on the above staff assessment, the following actions will be taken to enhance the safety of slow moving farm vehicles on public roadways:

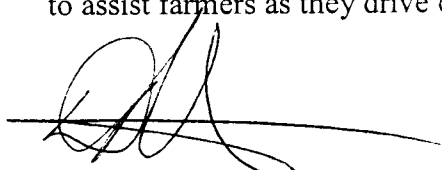
- That staff continue to monitor routes used by farm vehicles, and consult with the Agricultural Advisory Committee on an on-going basis to ensure that appropriate signage of "Respect Slow Moving Farm Vehicles" is maintained; and
- That the RCMP be invited to an Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting to clarify the rules of the road regarding slow moving vehicles and outline how they can assist the drivers of slow moving vehicles, particularly with inconsiderate drivers.

Financial Impact

There is no requirement for additional funds as sign replacement is already accounted for in the City's Public Works Sign Maintenance Budget.

Conclusion

"Respect Slow Moving Farm Vehicles" signs are posted on routes typically used by farm vehicles and will be maintained as required. Any new routes that may be opened up will also be signed, particularly as development expands in the Fraser Port area. The creation of a City Bylaw to assist the farmers is not necessary as the Provincial Motor Vehicle Act and Regulations already provides for slow moving vehicles and can be used as an enforcement tool by the RCMP to assist farmers as they drive on public roadways.



Doug Newton
Traffic Technician
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Motor Vehicle Act Regulations

Division 7B — Slow Moving Vehicles and Equipment

Definition

7B.01 "Slow moving vehicle" means a vehicle, combination of vehicles or other machinery or equipment that is designed for use, and normally travels, on a highway, at a speed of 40 km/h or less but does not include an antique motor vehicle or a collector motor vehicle.

[en. B.C. Reg. 151/69; am. B.C. Regs. 343/77; 419/90, s. 4.]

Prohibition — driving

7B.02 No person shall drive or operate on a highway a slow moving vehicle unless the slow moving vehicle is equipped with a slow moving vehicle warning device.

[en. B.C. Reg. 151/69.]

Warning device

7B.03 A slow moving vehicle warning device as required by section 7B.02 shall conform to the standards set by the Canadian Standards Association, numbered C.S.A. Standard D 198-1967, entitled "Slow Moving Vehicle Warning Device". The device shall be mounted

- (a) On the rear or back of the vehicle, so long as it is part of the vehicle opposite the front or the direction of travel of the vehicle, and as near the centre of the rear or back of the vehicle as practicable,
- (b) So that one side is parallel to and at a height of not less than 90 cm or more than 150 cm from the ground.

[En. B.C. Reg. 151/69; am. B.C. Regs. 68/71, s. 4; 343/77.]

Prohibition — display

7B.04 No person shall display a slow moving vehicle warning device on

- (a) a stationary object,
- (b) a vehicle travelling at a speed in excess of 40 km/h, or
- (c) any vehicle parked on a highway other than one that would normally display such a device.

[en. B.C. Reg. 151/69; am. B.C. Reg. 343/77.]