

**Small City,
Big Heart.**

**Use of All Terrain Vehicles
in Saint John**

Presentation to Public Safety Committee
November 20, 2024





Referral

As per the attached Highway Usage Permit and as a part of the NB ATV Federation we the Lorneville Trail Riders ATV Club #57 have received Provincial approval for ATV's to travel on sections of public roadway in our Club's jurisdiction which would allow ATV users safe access to business amenities directly from our Managed ATV Trail System.

The next step in the process is to ask the City of Saint John for an amendment to municipal traffic bylaws to allow for the use of ATV's on the public roadways which can be seen highlighted in the attached document. (Galbraith Place, King William Road and a section of Paddy's Hill Drive).



Benefits/Concerns of ATV Use

Benefits

- Recreation
- Opportunity to work with Trail Managers

Concerns

- Unsafe use, including on roadways
- Noise, dust
- Damage to property
- Conflicting use of trails with Active Transportation modes
- Operation too close to drinking water sources



Off-Road Vehicle Act

- Generally, riders must be 16 years old
- Cannot be operated carelessly, recklessly or may cause damage to person, property, environment
- Cannot cause excessive noise and need proper muffler system
- Parks are off limits generally
- Trails through responsibilities of Trail Manager
- Generally, cannot be operated on streets
 - Except permitted to cross directly over after stopping first



Aiding Enforcement

- Registration required with clearly visible number plate
- ATV owner required to disclose name of rider
- Responsibilities of Trail Manager

... but...

- resources to provide adequate enforcement clearly not aligning with some views in community
- prevalence of unregistered ATVs without displayed number plate



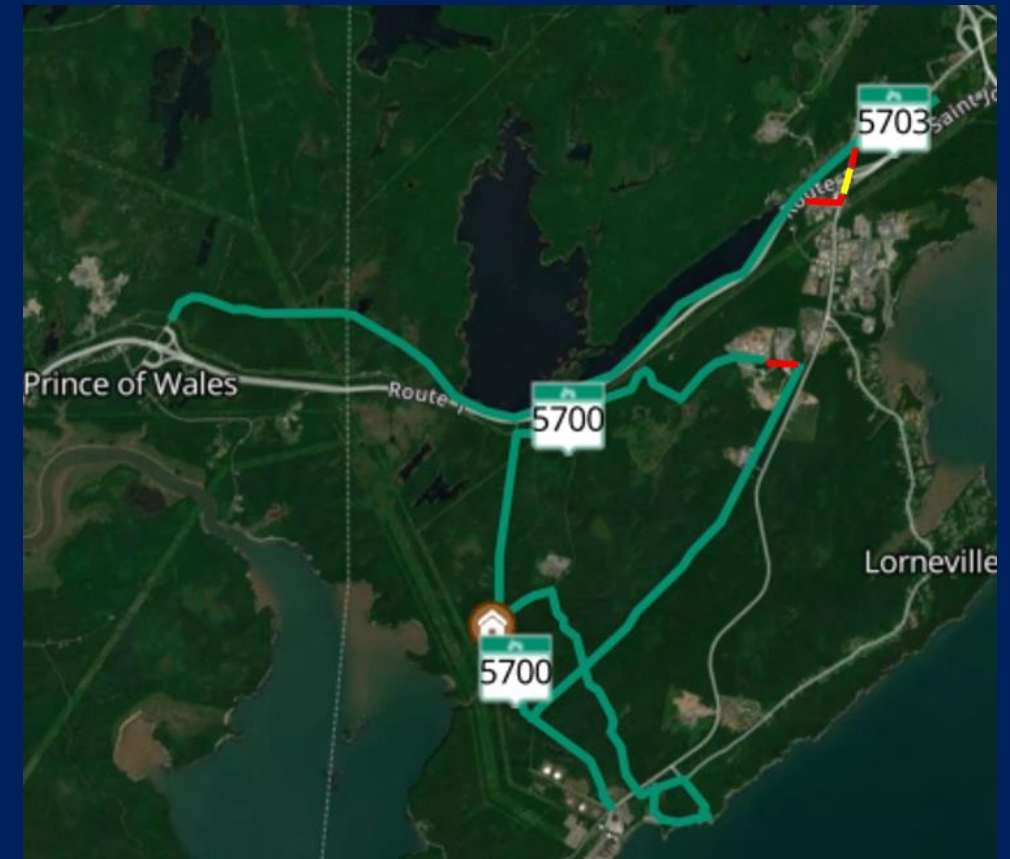
Permitting ATV Use on City Streets

- Province may permit use of ATVs on Provincial Highways
 - Exercised through Highway Usage Permit issued by Gateway Operations in current case
- Municipalities may, by by-law, allow ATVs to use municipal streets
 - subject to Provincial endorsement
 - maximum \$100.00 fine
 - would be mechanism to grant approval to Lorneville Trail Riders Club they requested



ATV Managed Trails

- Approved by Minister of Natural Resources and Energy
- Responsible association identified for upkeep
- **Green** lines in map to right are ATV trails managed by Lorneville Trail Riders Club
- **Yellow** line is granted Provincial approval for use of Provincial Highway overpass
- **Red** lines are City streets where Club requests approval





Concerns with Approving Request

- Comprehensive consultations with broad community to clarify views on ATV use needed
- Outstanding Recreation Plan (PlaySJ) recommendation re clarifying use of ATVs in parks
- Enforcement resources and responsibilities (SJ Police and Provincial Department of Public Safety)
- Shared use of trails with Active Transportation modes should be explored
- Use near drinking water supplies
- Lifecycle costs of physical barriers to reduce unwanted ATV use
- Need for better coordination with Provincial Transportation, Public Safety, and Natural Resources departments re ATV use
- Opportunities to partner with ATV associations
 - Education to ATV riders
 - Accountability for actions of ATV riders
 - Trail/road system as a way to deter use in residential areas

.....investigation of these items would be intensive on limited city staff resources



Recommendation

Public Safety Committee recommends that Common Council deny current request by Lorneville Trail Riders Club 57 to permit All Terrain Vehicles be used on city streets, as attached to this report.