



Lesser Slave River

Traffic Count Report  
Motor Vehicle Stats 2014-2022

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# Minister's brief

## INTERSECTION UPGRADES FOR HIGHWAY 2 & BAYER ROAD

Overlooked provincial road improvement obligation has resulted in a highly dangerous and occasionally fatal intersection.

### Background details:

The intersection of Highway 2 and Bayer Road is located 3.75 kilometres west of the Town of Slave Lake. This is well-known by locals as a highly dangerous intersection due to the lack of a westbound left turning lane. According to the Alberta Transportation Traffic Counter (70000912) located nearest this intersection, this highway sees approximately 3800 AADT in each direction.

Bayer Road has 32 residences along it, and is located on the south side of Highway 2. The north side of the intersection is Sawridge Road, which has approximately 5 residences located nearby. Highway 2 is a regular commuter thoroughfare for residents of Kinuso, Assineau, Faust, Widewater Canyon Creek and Driftpile who travel to and from work in Slave Lake or the surrounding area.

Previously, the MD has reached out to Alberta Transportation to request that this intersection be widened to accommodate a turning lane, in addition to the installation of streetlights and signage improvements. Despite these requests, the position of Alberta Transportation was that traffic volumes did not warrant such improvements.

On average, emergency responders attend approximately 13 calls per year along this stretch of highway. That is more than one emergency call per month. Not all of these incidents happen at the Bayer Road intersection, but a good deal of them are accidents due to a vehicle turning left heading west and the driver behind them not seeing the vehicle or losing it in the sun. A turning lane would help increase safety and reduce accidents at this location.

### Main concerns raised:

- There is no left turning lane for traffic leaving the westbound lane of Highway 2 on to Bayer Road. There is also no deceleration lane or widening of the intersection that would allow traffic to flow safely.
- There is no roadside illumination at the intersection, despite the majority of traffic occurring between 6:00am and 9:00am and 4:00pm and 7:00pm (dusk or darkness periods for the majority of the year).

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INTERSECTION UPGRADES  
FOR HIGHWAY 2 & BAYER ROAD

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*Intersection of Highway 2 and Bayer Road*

- There is limited signage to indicate that traffic may be slowing, turning or otherwise stopping on the highway.
- Daily traffic count in 2021 was 3820 westbound and 3810 east bound.
- There is a high volume of loaded log trucks in the area, as well as other heavy trucking. This commercial traffic, coupled with high speeding rates in the area, increases the risk at this intersection.

## **Key issues:**

The intersection of Highway 2 and Bayer Road is not an accident waiting to happen; it is accident prone. Traffic continues to increase, and if the present situation is not remedied, a major accident is an eventuality. How can the MD and Alberta Transportation improve the safety of this intersection before that happens?