

Northwest Industrial Business Association – 2014 Executive Directors
Report



Annual Report

2014

Allan Schmidt – Executive Director

June 1, 2015

Background

The NorthWest Industrial Business Revitalization Zone Association was incorporated as a BRZ Association in December 2001. We are located in the north-west corner of Edmonton, a 250 square block area west of 170 Street and north of 109 Avenue. Our members are primarily large industrial businesses, the majority of whom are involved in manufacturing, warehousing/distribution, industrial sales and retail automotive. There is a mix of locally owned, national and international business operations. Efficient transportation access and egress is a priority issue for the area.

The Association is managed by a board of directors elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting held in October each year.

The 2014 Association Board of Directors were:

Chair	Kenneth Zender	President, Western Sterling Trucks Ltd.
Vice Chair	Ed Stahl	President, Stahl Peterbilt Inc.
Secretary	Merrill Martin	General Manager, Martin Deeline
Treasurer	Jim Riddell	Controller, Edmonton Kenworth Ltd.
Director	Arthur Langner	President and General Manager, Nortrax
Director	Henry Noppers	Director, Ford Credit Canada
Director	Steve Bain	Operations Manager, Cardinal Health Canada
Director	Joe Murphy	President, Fireball Equipment
Director	Mark Dobko	Branch Manager, Driving Force
Director	David Wood	Plant Manager, Logoplaste

All Board members are affiliated with businesses operating within the Association area. The Board meets on a bi-monthly schedule and at the call of the chair. Mark Dobko and David Wood joined the Board in October of 2014, Steve Bain retired from the Board in May of 2015 due to increased work requirements.

Allan Schmidt, who is contracted as a part-time Executive Director provides the day to day administration and management of the Association. His responsibilities are to provide the Association with a business office presence and manage the Association's business affairs, to be the initial point of contact for the membership/business community and to represent the Association at community, municipal and provincial levels.

2014 Activity

Construction activity continued in 2014, the larger projects include automotive dealerships and distribution warehouses. Some member businesses are renovating and expanding their existing buildings as their businesses mature and require more space.

Our focus, as an Association, is to support the continued development and growth of the area through improvements to the physical environment and support initiatives that add value to the community as a whole.

We have a very small volume of retail shopping traffic, mainly involving the thirteen automotive dealerships, three soup and sandwich and small Italian restaurants. There is virtually no pedestrian shopping. Parking is not an issue in the area. Large commercial vehicles comprise the majority of our daily road traffic.

The Association's primary issues are efficient access and egress throughout the area, efficient public transportation, safety for our employees and our commercial traffic, and crime deterrence and reduction. Our strategic planning focuses on these issues.

The NorthWest Industrial Business Association 2014 annual general meeting was held October 16, 2014. The 2015 draft budget was presented and reviewed by the members present and approved by the Board. The current Board agreed to stand for nomination and were re-elected for 2015. Kenneth Zender continues as chair of the Board.

Current Projects

◆ Roadway Projects:

There were no major roadway projects in our area in 2014.

◆ Bus Shelter Project

The Association has a multiyear bus shelter purchase project. The Association identifies high ridership bus stops and endeavours to place a shelter at them. The Association proposed to install 3 shelters in 2014. To date the Association has purchased and placed 21 shelters in our area.

◆ Crime Deterrence Patrols:

Property crime in the industrial areas is an ongoing problem. The industrial areas have little or no traffic in the dark hours and weekends. This is when the majority of our property crimes are committed.

The Association has contracted with a private security patrol service to provide a night hours random mobile security patrol dedicated to our Association area. These patrols were initiated in response to concerns expressed by a majority of the Association members in our 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2013 member's surveys.

Our patrol officers visually check our members' business premises doors and accessible gates on every shift to ensure they are secure. Unsecured premises are thoroughly checked and key holders are called. These security lapses are noted in an incident report and are followed up daily by the Association. Crime or property damage is reported

directly to the police and the business contact person, if known. These incidents are also followed up by the Association. Following a suggestion from the Edmonton Police Service, we doubled the patrol during periods of anticipated increases in criminal activity.

◆ Community Clean-up Project

The Association conducts two community litter/recycle clean-up projects a year in our area. We have partnered with the Edmonton Institution for Women, to undertake these projects. The Association provides the planning, tools, meals and supervision and the institution provides volunteer work crews and transportation. The project takes 3 to 4 days to complete along our 13 Km. of roadways. This project is well supported by the members and is an excellent partnership project for the Association. We have noticed a steady decrease in the amount of litter as more businesses have landscaped and well cared for properties.

◆ Safety

The Association maintains a close watch on traffic and pedestrian patterns in the area as the safety of our pedestrians and vehicles on our busy roads is a concern. Identified issues are reported to the city for their review and action.

◆ Public Transportation

Along with building development, the employee population in our area is growing very quickly. At present we have approximately 8000 employees. The Association is in continual discussion with Edmonton Transit regarding services to our area. Ridership on our area buses is continually monitored to identify patterns and possible improvements.

Summary

Our members have indicated that crime deterrence, transportation access and egress and public transportation concerns are a priority for our area and the Association is working diligently to continually address these issues.

The Association will continue to advocate on behalf of our members with our various stakeholders. We will also continue to develop and support new projects that contribute to the growth of the area and support initiatives that add value to the community as a whole.
