

2009-May-22

File: 5600.06.33

Dear Owner/Occupants:

Re: Brechin Hill Neighbourhood Traffic

The City of Nanaimo Engineering Department has received a number of correspondences from local residents within your neighbourhood regarding traffic speeds and volumes.

In an effort to understand the existing conditions within your neighbourhood, a review of traffic patterns was conducted. This included 24 hour speed and volume counts as well as an analysis of recent collisions. These reviews indicated that traffic patterns within your neighbourhood are typical of the local road network in Nanaimo and generally did not meet the City's current thresholds for traffic calming.

Despite not meeting these thresholds, an opportunity to improve conditions within your neighbourhood with minimal cost and impact was identified. Noting that all stop controlled intersections within your neighbourhood facilitate free-flow travel in the east-west direction; City staff proposed the reversal¹ of eight stop controlled intersections. Reversing stop signs at key intersections would create a condition of alternating stops within your neighbourhood, a more typical orientation that would mitigate speeds.

In December 2008, City staff held an open house providing neighbourhood residents with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed improvements. The concept received qualified support with a number of significant concerns. This new concept is based on that original concept, with adjustments that attempt to resolve some of the issues identified.

1. Residents from Larch, Hemlock and Juniper Streets raised concerns about grades approaching the proposed stop signs on their streets. After reviewing in detail the grades at these locations, changes to these intersections were removed from the plan.
2. Originally no stop control changes were proposed on Drake Street due to the presence of a T-intersection at Brierly Hill. Drake Street residents expressed concern that with no changes to their street, speeds and volumes could increase. As Drake Street had the highest recorded speeds within the neighbourhood and because stop sign reversals were not a viable option,

¹ In the context of this plan, reversal of stop controlled intersections would involve moving the stop control (stop signs) from north-south streets to the east-west streets. The result will be no net increase in stops, but rather a more even distribution of stops between the north-south and east-west directions.

staff have modified the concept and are proposing speed humps on Drake Street. If this plan proceeds, the residents of Drake Street will be further consulted regarding the installation and placement of the speed humps.

3. In response to concerns regarding higher speeds within the playground zone on Poplar Street, and in conjunction with stop sign reversals at Belford Avenue and at Brierly Hill, the existing playground signage will be adjusted closer to the playground boundaries. This will make the signage more conspicuous with the aim of increasing driver compliance. Once these changes have been implemented; speeds within the playground zone will be re-assessed.
4. Other improvements planned include:
 - a. Marking a stop bar (white line) on Brierly Hill at Larch Street to reduce driver confusion by making it more obvious where they have to stop.
 - b. A minor realignment of Maple Street at its intersection with Brierly Hill to provide a better road edge transition for eastbound vehicles on Maple Street.

This process was initiated in response to concerns indentified by members of the Brechin Hill Neighbourhood. The objective of this process is to improve the liveability of your neighbourhood by reducing the impact of traffic volumes and speeds. There are no direct costs to neighbourhood residents if the proposed concept is approved.

The attached survey has been prepared to provide staff with a measure of support for the proposed changes. This survey is an opportunity for your input on the proposed improvements for your neighbourhood. **The proposed changes outlined in this letter will not proceed without neighbourhood support.**

Please review the attached map and complete the survey, the deadline to submit your comments for consideration is **Monday, June 15, 2009**. The results of this survey will be available on the City's website www.nanaimo.ca/brechinhilltraffic on or before Friday, July 17, 2009. If the concept passes, implementation could occur over the Summer / Fall of 2009.

If you have any questions or need any part of the proposed plan clarified before completing, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 250-755-4409 or george.chamoun@nanaimo.ca.

Yours truly,



George Chamoun, ASCT
Traffic & Transportation Technologist

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G: Transportation/Transportation Planning/Traffic Calming/Brechin Hill/ 2nd Letter to Brechin Hill Residents