



City of Port Alberni

ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

**Minutes from the Meeting held Wednesday, October 21, 2020
2:00 pm - Zoom Platform**

PRESENT: Ken Watson (Acting Director of Engineering), Wilf Taekema, Chair (Engineering & Public Works), Brian Mousley (Streets Superintendent), Councillor Ron Paulsen, Rosemarie Buchanan (SD#70), Wes Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief (PAFD), Sgt. Peter Dionne (RCMP), Peggy Gibbs (ICBC)

REGRETS: Laurie Payne (Diversified Transportation), Caroline Robinson (ICBC)

DELEGATIONS

None

**Action
By**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Larry Ransom brought forward an email from Laurie Morphet at Alberni Elementary School on January 7, 2019 regarding traffic flow concerns at the school.**

BM

The Committee has now received a letter (attached) from Principal James Messenger from March 2, 2020 requesting dedicated disabled parking spaces and a sidewalk letdown on Helen Street near the Kindergarten. Larry Ransom has since provided an email request from Dec 2019 with a map showing the location suggested (attached). SD#70 and Public Works to review and cost out the work.

- 2. Road improvements at the lower Johnston corridor and River Road**

The final version of the MOTI Highway 4 Port Alberni Corridor Study will be forwarded to the Committee once received by City Council. Councillor Paulsen reported that the Draft Study has outlined options for improvements over the span of 1-5 years. The City would be working with MOTI to improve pedestrian safety at lower Johnston Road and streetscape esthetics. There will be further public input. Peggy commented that there are possible cost-sharing opportunities between ICBC and MOTI and this corridor is a good target for road improvements.

KW

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Email on January 23, 2020 from Alicia Ashley regarding safety concerns with neighbourhood children trying to get to school at E.J. Dunn. There are no crosswalks near the school on Argyle Street allowing children to get across from Argyle Way.**

PD

Crosswalk locations in the area were reviewed and it was discussed that a likely new crosswalk location would be at Anderson and Dunbar Street and at

least one other, likely at Argyle Way. Peggy suggested pavement markings to slow traffic (red and yellow). Peggy will send photos of Langford and View Royal pavement marking applications. There is the possibility of cost sharing, however the city would likely have to budget for all schools and gradually implement the program. Peter suggested patrols in the school zones however there is no dedicated RCMP traffic support at this time. Peter noted that this is a traffic enforcement issue. He suggested Speedwatch 3/per week and would bring this forward to Dave Cusson, Manager of Community Policing. It was further discussed that the first step is to keep speeds down and add additional crosswalks after that. Peter will follow up with Speedwatch volunteers to get some statistics on speeding. Peggy reported that 1 child was struck by a truck in 2015 with minor injuries at this intersection. Rosemarie noted that valid data should be at times when there is the most chaos at the school. Peggy also reported on the "Think of Me" education tool used at elementary schools. Peggy to send this program information to Rosemarie.

2. A request from Alf Thompson regarding concerns by Russell Place and Russell Street residents with parking, pedestrian safety, speeding and noise from commercial vehicles

It was noted that a lot of the frustration by residents in this area is due to construction traffic which is now substantially complete. Brian Mousley noted that there is another development starting which will create more traffic again, but will be short-term. Council Paulsen asked if there could be a modified version of rumble strips for traffic calming. Ken Watson discussed the city's reluctance for "resident only" parking signs at the turnaround. Peggy reported that there are no collisions in the last 5 years at this intersection. RCMP reported that a Speedwatch program was done in 2018 and there was no report of excessive speeding. The Committee discussed the fact that there is no sidewalk on Russell Place. A sidewalk should run all the way to Russell Street from River Road. This will be added to the City's list of future sidewalk installations. Once the sidewalk is built on Russell Place, then a crosswalk should be added at Russell Place and Russell Street.

BM

3. Email from Anita Jansen regarding traffic volume and noise on Gertrude Street at Lathom Road.

The Committee agreed that Lathom and Gertrude are both busy. Gertrude Street is an arterial road. It was mentioned that several municipalities are lowering the speed limit from 50k to 40k. Peggy noted that there is a 3year pilot project that the City of Saanich is spearheading to lower the speed limit from 50k to 30k. It is unknown how effective it is. It is more up to enforcement to keep speed down. The city will continue to monitor. Peggy will report crash data to the City.

KW

4. Email request from Pam Vanderhoek to obtain a residential handicapped parking spot outside her home.

Brian Mousley, Streets Superintendent will do a site visit to get a better understanding and will discuss other options with the homeowner. Councillor Paulsen asked whether the city could set up an application process with criteria in the next year for these types of requests. It was noted that the city will need resources to be able to enforce any new regulations.

BM

5. Email request from Alicia Puusepp, owner of Riverbend Store, to consider supporting the addition of a push-activated pedestrian crosswalk at Russell Street on River Road or in close proximity to the intersection.

The City will connect with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure again to get traffic count data. It was discussed that the city needs pedestrian crossing opportunities along River Road perhaps at the city park. Sgt. Dionne noted that there is a crosswalk at Josephine Street at the Hupacasath wharf which is pedestrian activated. Wilf discussed the Transit bus stop on River Road which is on a curve and not the greatest for sightlines. Councillor Paulsen reminded about the future Quay to Quay concept for an all-access trail along River Road. Peggy discussed ICBC analysis of the best location for a crosswalk and possible cost-sharing available between ICBC and the city for pedestrian activated lights/curb extensions. MOTI must agree and run their own warrant. Peggy reported that there were no pedestrian-related crashes in the last 5 years. A TAC warrant should be done for a crosswalk with a pedestrian-activated crossing signal. The city should refer to MOTI for long-term improvements at Russell Street to connect the community at Westport Place to Quay to Quay walkway.

KW

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Wes Patterson commented about the left-turn delineators at the Co-op on 10th Avenue (northbound lane) on the north side of Redford Street. Can we get the curbing painted yellow again? There should be no parking along this area. Brian Mousley will check this out with Wes.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2021:

Dates to be approved at December 14th, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

January 20, 2021

April 21, 2021

October 20, 2021

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION

Council

Tim Pley – CAO

Twyla Slonski – Director of Corporate Services

Ken Watson – Acting Director of Engineering

Wilf Taekema – Engineering and Public Works

Brian Mousley – Streets Superintendent

Katelyn McDougall – Manager of Planning

Gaylene Thorogood – Manager of Community Safety

Willa Thorpe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage

Sgt. Peter Dionne – RCMP, email agenda to Peter.DIONNE@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Wes Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief - Fire Department

Larry Ransom - Trustee, SD 70, email agenda to mlransom@shaw.ca

Caroline Robinson - Road Safety Coordinator, ICBC, email agenda to caroline.robinson@icbc.com

Peggy Gibbs, ICBC, email agenda to margaret.gibbs@icbc.com

David Wiwchar, The Peak, email agenda to dwiwchar@islandradio.bc.ca

Laurie Payne - Diversified Transportation Ltd., email agenda to lauriep@patransit.pwt.ca

Sgt. Michelle Mercer - Central Vanc. Island Traffic Services, email agenda to Michelle.Mercer@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Bill Brown – cyclist, email agenda to billbrown@shaw.ca

Kevin Head – cyclist, email agenda to kevin.head@gmail.com



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Engineering & Public Works Department

4850 Argyle Street,

Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 1V8

Telephone: (250) 720-2830 Fax: (250) 723-3402

www.portalberni.ca

December 9, 2020

Alicia Ashley

alicia.ashley1@hotmail.com

Dear Ms. Ashley,

Re: Traffic Committee request

Thank you for your emailed received January 23, 2020 with regards to your concerns about neighbourhood children walking to E.J. Dunn from Argyle Way.

On Wednesday, October 21, 2020 the Advisory Traffic Committee met and reviewed your concerns.

The Committee noted that there is no crosswalk from Dunbar Street to Sweet Avenue. It was discussed that the first step is to keep speeds down and add additional crosswalks after that. Sgt. Dionne, RCMP, suggested that this is a traffic enforcement issue. He will bring forward to Dave Cusson, Manager of Community Policing, to request Speedwatch volunteers in this area. Possible crosswalk locations were discussed such as at Anderson Avenue and Dunbar Street and another one likely at Argyle Way. Peggy from ICBC suggested pavement markings to slow traffic. Peggy also forwarded information to S.D. Trustee, Rosemarie Buchanan regarding the "Think of Me" education tool used at elementary schools.

We are currently reviewing potential extension of the school zones in the area, as well as additional crosswalk locations.

I appreciate your concern on this matter. Please call me if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Ken Watson, P.Eng.
Acting Director of Engineering



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December 9, 2020

Alicia Puusepp

aliciaeden@gmail.com

Dear Alicia,

Re: Crosswalk at River Road and Russell Street

Thank you for your email received September 14, 2020 with regards to your request for support of a pedestrian-activated crosswalk at Russell Street on River Road

On Wednesday, October 21, 2020 the Advisory Traffic Committee met and reviewed your concerns.

The Committee discussed installing a safe, pedestrian-crossing opportunity along River Road, perhaps at the city-owned park.

Peggy Gibbs, ICBC, discussed ICBC analysis of the best location for a crosswalk and possible cost-sharing available between ICBC and the City for pedestrian activated lights/curb extensions. Peggy also reported that there were no pedestrian-related crashes in the last 5 years and suggested a TAC traffic count warrant should be done for a marked crosswalk with pedestrian flashers.

The City will connect with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure again to try to access traffic count data. MOTI must agree and run their own warrant before any crosswalk installation.

We appreciate your concern on this matter. Please call me if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Ken Watson, P.Eng.
Acting Director of Engineering



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www.portalberni.ca

December 9, 2020

Anita Jansen

tasljansen@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Jansen,

Re: Gertrude Street traffic

Thank you for your emailed received May 6, 2020 with regards to your concerns about the volume and noise of traffic on Gertrude Street at Lathom Road.

On Wednesday, October 21, 2020 the Advisory Traffic Committee met and reviewed your concerns.

The Committee noted that Gertrude Street is an arterial road. It's primary function is to deliver traffic from collector roads.

It was discussed by the Committee that several municipalities are lowering their speed limits from 50k to 40k. There is a pilot project that the City of Saanich is spearheading to lower speed limits from 50k to 30k. It is unknown yet how effective it is. It was mentioned that it is more up to enforcement to keep speeds down. The City will continue to monitor. ICBC will also report crash data to the City.

I appreciate your concern on this matter. Please call me if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

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Ken Watson, P.Eng.
Acting Director of Engineering



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December 9, 2020

Pam Vanderhoek
queenmit@shaw.ca

Dear Ms. Vanderhoek,

Re: Residential Handicapped Parking

Thank you for your emailed received July 16, 2020 with regards to your request for a residential handicapped parking spot at 3863 Anderson Avenue

On Wednesday, October 21, 2020 the Advisory Traffic Committee met and reviewed your concerns.

It was discussed that it is not the City's practice to install dedicated residential parking spots. However, Brian Mousley, Streets Superintendent, will do a site visit to get a better understanding of the issue and will discuss other options with you.

Councillor Paulsen questioned whether the City could set up an application process with criteria in the new year, for these types of requests. It was noted that the City will need resources to be able to enforce any new regulations of this type.

I appreciate your concern on this matter. Please call me if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Ken Watson, P.Eng.
Acting Director of Engineering

Veronica Irg

From: Ken Watson <ken-watson@shaw.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Veronica Irg
Subject: Fwd: Traffic Advisory Request - Handicap parking at AES
Attachments: Handicap Access[1].png

From: "Larry Ransom, SD#70 Trustee (lransom@sd70.bc.ca)" <lransom@sd70.bc.ca>
To: "Wilf Taekema" <wilf_taekema@portalberni.ca>
Cc: "veronica irg" <veronica_irg@portalberni.ca>, "Greg Roe" <groee@sd70.bc.ca>, "James Messenger" <jmessenger@sd70.bc.ca>, "Pam Craig" <PCraig@sd70.bc.ca>, "Lawrence Ransom" <larsom55@icloud.com>, "ken-watson" <ken-watson@shaw.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 11:58:37 AM
Subject: Fwd: Traffic Advisory Request - Handicap parking at AES

Hi Wilf. My apologies if you receive this e-mail twice. I am having difficulty uploading the original e-mail from December 2019.

Hopefully this e-mail uploads fully!

Please advise on receipt.

Thanks

Larry

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Larry Ransom <lransom@sd70.bc.ca>
Date: December 5, 2019 at 1:33:00 PM PST
To: "wilf_taekema@portalberni.ca" <wilf_taekema@portalberni.ca>
Cc: Veronica Irg <veronica_irg@portalberni.ca>, Greg Roe <groee@sd70.bc.ca>, James Messenger <jmessenger@sd70.bc.ca>, Marc Fryer <mfryer@sd70.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Traffic Advisory Request - Handicap parking at AES

Hello Wilf.

I have received a request from James Messenger, Principal of Alberni Elementary School.

The request is for a dedicated and accessible parking access adjacent to the accessible ramp on Helen Street. (See attachment)

Could this item be placed on the January Advisory Traffic meeting agenda for discussion.

Thank you

Larry

From: James Messenger <jmessenger@sd70.bc.ca>
Sent: December 3, 2019 3:48 PM
To: Larry Ransom <lransom@sd70.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Traffic Advisory Request - Handicap parking at AES

Larry,

I understand you are our SD70 rep so I thought I would forward this request to you.

--

James Messenger

Principal – École Alberni Elementary School <https://aes.sd70.bc.ca/>

President/Coach - Alberni Valley Wrestling Club <http://www.alberniwrestling.ca>

Co-Coordinator - Alberni Salmonids in the Classroom

w 250-724-0623

c 250-735-8854

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From: James Messenger <jmessenger@sd70.bc.ca>

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 3:36 PM

To: Barb Witte <bwitte@sd70.bc.ca>

Cc: Marc Fryer <mfryer@sd70.bc.ca>, Maureen Gray <mgray@sd70.bc.ca>

Subject: Traffic Advisory Request - Handicap parking at AES

Barb,

Not sure who SD70 rep on Traffic Advisory Committee is but thought you might direct me. I am aware that Marc is already working with the City to address other traffic flow concerns. A few parents and staff members have brought up the issue of dedicated accessible parking access. Are we able to make this request to committee for consideration? The most logical place is at Helen Street where we have a ramp for accessibility. See image.

Thanks,

James Messenger

Principal – École Alberni Elementary School <https://aes.sd70.bc.ca/>

President/Coach - Alberni Valley Wrestling Club <http://www.alberniwrestling.ca>

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École Alberni Elementary

4645 Helen Street
Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 6P6
Mr. James Messenger, Principal

t: 250.724.0623
f: 250.724.0600
M. Fryer, Vice-Principal

March 2, 2020

Dear Alberni Traffic Advisory Committee,

I am writing this letter to inform you of a request brought forward on behalf of our school.

Members of our school community have raised concerns regarding access to our school for individuals with mobility issues. To allow better universal access to our school we would like dedicated disabled parking spaces and a sidewalk letdown on Helen Street near the Kindergarten.

There has also been considerable discussion and planning into a design to address traffic flow issues by adding parking spaces for staff parking and a parent drop off loop off Arrowsmith Street.

We believe both these improvements would address traffic safety concerns, traffic flow, and better access to our school. If you have any questions or concerns related to these requests please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James Messenger

RECEIVED
OCT 19 2020

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI