

westvancouver

(11)

ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION

1755 CYPRESS BOWL ROAD, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7S 3E7
TELEPHONE: 604 925-7108 FACSIMILE: 604 925-5988

December 14, 2009

File: 1805.14

()

Dear ()

RE: Traffic

Thank you for your recent letter to Mayor and Council in which you commented on the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of 15th Street and Mathers Avenue and traffic calming along Westmount Road. As the person responsible for both, I am pleased to respond on their behalf.

15th Street at Mathers Avenue

Agreed, traffic flow at this intersection could be improved, particularly during peak periods. As such, staff undertook a traffic signal warrant study with their consultant CTS in December, 2007. Based on the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) traffic signal warrant analysis by CTS, it was recommended that a simple two phase traffic signal be installed at this location. Funding for its design and construction has been included in the 2010 Road Capital Budget.

Westmount Road

The Westmount Road Traffic Calming Project was initiated at the request of the Westmount neighbourhood on the basis of excessive speed and overall traffic safety. The rationale for the Westmount Road Traffic Calming Project was as follows:

- A speed and traffic volume survey which measured 85th percentile speeds (speeds at which 85 of every 100 vehicles are travelling at or below) that were well into the mid 60 kph range.
- Excessive speeds up to and greater than 140 kph.
- Two past fatalities involving children and one recent collision with a person.
- A favourable cost / benefit analysis by ICBC.
- Anecdotal evidence by residents living along Westmount Road.

Document #380971-v1

In summary, the speed and traffic safety concerns by residents were confirmed by testing and through discussions with ICBC. The District, ICBC, neighbours and the Westmount Chevron then collaborated to develop and fund the traffic calming plan as it presents itself to date. The results of implementing the Westmount Road Traffic Calming Project are: a mean speed just over 50 kph, a reduction in the 85th percentile speed from a high of 65.5 kph to 58.9 kph and a reduction in excessive speed (speed greater than 70 kph) of 84 percent.

In closing, I would confirm that motorists travelling along Westmount Road can do so very comfortably and without fear of colliding with the constructed traffic calming, at 50 kph – the posted speed limit. This can also be said for speeds up to the 85th percentile, a reasonable imposition.

Yours truly,



Brent A. Dozzi, P. Eng., PTOE
Manager, Roads and Transportation

BAD/bw

cc. ✓ Mayor and Council

()

December 2, 2009

To the Mayor and Councilors of West Vancouver:

Ever since a preceding council of West Vancouver sold 4700 acres of our municipality to the British Properties for \$75,000, the councils of West Vancouver have disappointed citizens. Councils have not met pre-election promises and numerous current decisions, and non decisions are suspect, harmful, and even dangerous.

I could name your timidity (to put it mildly) in bowing to Mrs. Mooi (of Parks & Recreation) and her happy band of advisors who will not allow our children, teenagers, seniors or general public to skate on Saturdays (just hockey players at 42 bucks an hour for the whole ice, when the skaters would pay hundreds). You and your predecessors have known this for years but you caved to your hirelings; you sacrifice your general citizen public. You are so rigid and inflexible on this subject that even the parents of our bored teenagers ("some of whom have taken up drugs" - Kash Heed) the parents have taken up latte drinking, yoga, and making more money rather than trying to get you to understand the simple promise that the rink was built for the use of the public. You council members allow your most highly paid of all lower mainland municipal employees to snow you with blah so that you forget the public good and you do not, simply, tell them to open the rink to the public on Saturday or be fired.

And relatedly, the hot tub in the aquatic centre used to be the only sanctuary for adults and a sign said "adults only". Now Mrs. Mooi and her jolly little group have opened it to little children in diapers (under their suits). Last week as I watched an attendant scoop up a turd (must have been loose elastic) from the children's pool, I saw that little kids - 6 yrs. And under - outnumbered non-parents 3 to 1 in the formerly adults only - hot tub. Under Mrs. Mooi, apparently, anything goes except service to citizens who pay the bills.

But these two minor cavils are not why I am writing.

West Vancouver is widely recognized as having the worst and slowest municipal road system in North America. Yet councilors have misguidedly adopted the principle of "slow down the road traffic". For years you have ridiculously refused to demand timed traffic lights on 15th and 21st Avenues. So 20 cars in a row on 15th stop at the 4 way stops at Mathers waiting for non-existent cars on Mathers (except at school openings and closings) when timed lights would give Mathers more "go time". Why do you do this? 15th Street carries traffic from our business area to the British Properties, to the Country Club, to the highway, yet each car has to stop - all day long - at the 4 way stop - for the

(

)

non-existent Mathers Avenue cross traffic. However, one way for you to deflect criticism, ask for a study to be done, that should shut up the complainers – like me – until, at least, your term is over.

My main complaint is the ridiculous traffic slow down obstruction placed on Westmount Road. If you have not driven on Westmount from Rockview to Benbow, do not delay. (the westward trip is not nearly as fun as the eastward). You have placed an obstruction - made of granite – at Rockview designed to kill anyone who hits it. It is placed right in the middle of eastbound traffic. One day, whether in snow, ice, fog, or from a slight touch of inebriation, someone is going to be killed there. You are the only people who can take this obstruction away. You now are aware and you know about it. When someone is killed and you are all sued, don't even think of trying to switch liability to the taxpayers. It is only you who are imperiling drivers' lives. The taxpayers are not to blame. By the by by, how do you think snow plows will navigate through these artificial hazards you have enabled? If the plow blade hits a median concrete and the driver is killed, you will be asked to pay again – putting employees' lives knowingly at risk. Did any of you ask the snow plow division what it thinks of these things?

Just think of this, Westmount is the only "thru" municipal road in this part of West Van. (apart from Marine Drive) and you want to slow it down! People got a discount on home purchases on traffic routes, but once in, they didn't want the traffic. They should move if they don't like it, not slow down the whole populace!

Sleep well dear council members. I hope the thought of a one or two million dollar judgement against your estate does not upset. Remember, the fallout or result of jurisprudence often surprises and previous assurances were for naught.

Your obedient servant,

()

Cc: The North Shore News
The Outlook