

REPORT
1996 JUNE 17

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION)

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

E. TRAFFIC ON WALKER AVENUE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council forward a copy of this report to Mr. Tom Killip, 6235 Walker Avenue, Burnaby, B.C.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Traffic Safety Division), at its meeting held on 1996 June 04, adopted the *attached* staff report responding to correspondence from Mr. Tom Killip regarding the volume and speed of traffic on Walker Avenue with a particular concern relative to truck traffic. Staff noted that traffic count data suggests truck traffic along Walker Avenue is less of a problem than it used to be, although there may be some scope for enforcement during lunch time hours. Staff advised that the speed of traffic is a more significant safety issue than truck traffic. Staff proposed the installation of a temporary driver awareness sign advising of the urban speed limit on the Walker Avenue corridor. Staff concluded by advising that the unfinished nature of Walker Avenue contributes to the speeding problem and the construction of the street to an urban standard with curbs and sidewalks would be of help in mitigating this aspect of the problem.

MEMBERS:

Mr. N. Smith
Mr. M. Bloomfield
Mrs. M. Canessa
Mr. E. Fourchalk
Ms. L. Kapp
Mrs. D. Mumford
Mr. D. Ramsbotham
Mr. D. Richardson
Mr. A. MacDonald

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Young
Chairman

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.
- OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.

Councillor D. Evans
Member

City of Burnaby

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **DATE:** 1996 05 24
FROM: ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,
TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING SYSTEMS **FILE:** 55-01-04
SUBJECT: TRAFFIC ON WALKER AVENUE
PURPOSE: To respond to correspondence from Mr. Tom Killip regarding traffic safety on Walker Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Tom Killip, 6235 Walker Avenue, Burnaby, B.C.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On its last agenda, the Committee received correspondence from Mr. Tom Killip regarding the volume and speed of traffic on Walker Avenue with a particular concern relative to truck traffic. The matter was referred to staff for a report outlining results of traffic classification data acquisition.

2.0 TRUCK TRAFFIC

We counted traffic on Walker Avenue in the vicinity of Mr. Killip's address on Tuesday, 1996 May 14. Over a 24 hour period, we recorded 6,900 vehicles, of which only 45 would be considered as trucks in the context of the Truck Route Bylaw. Nine of these trucks were combination vehicles while the rest were single unit 3 axle vehicles such as dump trucks and garbage trucks. The majority of truck traffic (27 vehicles) was recorded during the two lunchtime hours (ie. 12:00 to 14:00) suggesting some scope for enforcement during this time period. No trucks were recorded outside of the daytime hours of 09:00 to 20:00.

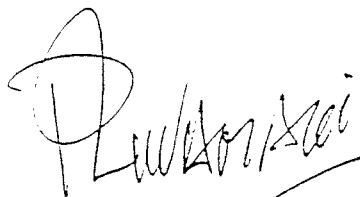
As Mr. Killip has written to the Committee in the past on these issues, we also have some data from prior monitoring of this stretch of Walker Avenue. A 1994 May 31 count recorded in excess of 80 trucks on Walker Avenue over a 24 hour period. This higher number probably reflects earlier construction activity relative to the Oaklands (Oakalla) development.

3.0 TRAFFIC SPEED

The median speed of traffic along Walker is estimated to be 53 km/h with an estimated 15% of vehicles travelling in excess of 60 km/h. Essentially, this profile matches what has been previously recorded on Walker Avenue and this pattern is not atypical for an interim standard through street such as Walker Avenue. The greatest scope for productive enforcement would appear to be the afternoon peak hours from 15:00 to 18:00. During that time, we estimate that 30-40 vehicles per hour may be travelling in excess of tolerable levels.

4.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Our data suggests that truck traffic along Walker Avenue is not the problem that it has been in the past, although there may be some scope for enforcement during lunch time hours. The speed of traffic is probably a more significant safety issue than truck traffic. Mr. Killip suggests signing the 50 km/h urban speed limit but this is not considered a practicable solution. However, we will place a temporary driver awareness sign advising of the urban speed limit on the Walker Avenue corridor (if a suitable location can be found). We believe that the unfinished nature of Walker Avenue contributes to the speeding problem and the construction of the street to an urban standard with curbs and sidewalks would be of help in mitigating this aspect of the problem. Accordingly, we will also send Mr. Killip details of the Local Improvement Program.



ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,
TRAFFIC & ENG. SYSTEMS

PL:jfb

cc: City Manager
RCMP-Traffic Section

