

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
(TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION)

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**B. 11TH AVENUE, WEST OF KINGSWAY**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. *THAT* Council forward a copy of the attached report to Brad Edwards, 7358 - 11th Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V3N 2N1.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Traffic Safety Division), at its meeting held on 1997 September 02, adopted the attached report responding to resident concerns regarding traffic on 11th Avenue and the request for closure of 11th Avenue at Kingsway.

MEMBERS:

Mr. D. Berardine  
Mrs. M. Canessa  
Ms. K. Friederici  
Mr. E. Fourchalk  
Ms. L. Kapp  
Mrs. R. Oostlander  
Mrs. D. Mumford  
Mr. A. MacDonald  
Mr. D. Richardson

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Young  
Chair

Councillor D. Evans  
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow  
Member

: - COPY - CITY MANAGER

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

City of Burnaby

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

**TO:** TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **DATE:** 1997 07 31  
**FROM:** ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,  
TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING SYSTEMS **FILE:** 55-01-04  
**SUBJECT:** 11TH AVENUE, WEST OF KINGSWAY  
**PURPOSE:** To respond to resident concerns regarding traffic on 11th Avenue and the request for closure of 11th Avenue at Kingsway.

---

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Brad Edwards, 7358 11th Avenue, Burnaby BC, V3N 2N1.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At its June meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee received a petition requesting closure of 11th Avenue at Kingsway. The request for closure was proposed by residents to address concerns about extraneous traffic, particularly that generated by "street prostitution" along Kingsway. The matter was referred to staff for report.

As part of our investigation we have carried out classified traffic counts, reviewed crash data and discussed the issues further with Mrs. Edwards, who has been instrumental in organizing her neighbourhood to deal with the street prostitution problem. Mrs. Edwards noted a concern with right turning traffic diverting down 11th Avenue when the 10th Avenue/Kingsway signal was saturated and traffic bound for the Safeway Distribution Centre. However, these issues were secondary to the problems caused by "Johns" cruising around the block, often repeatedly. This evening problem varies with street prostitution activity which in turn is conditioned by enforcement initiatives by police in New Westminster or Burnaby as well as the residents' anti-hooker/John patrols.

## 2.0 REVIEW

Staff conducted classified counts for four days at the end of June - Thursday through Sunday - at two locations on 11th Avenue. One counter was placed between Kingsway and 13th Street and the other between 13th and 15th Streets. The latter location had been previously counted in 1994 November and while the present counts were higher it is not necessarily a confirmation of traffic growth given expected seasonal variations. The volumes recorded were also higher at the counter closest to the Kingsway arterial but this is to be expected. In the block under consideration, between Kingsway and 13th Street, the recorded traffic volumes ranged from 784 vehicles per (24 hour) day on Friday, June 28 to 532 vehicles on the Sunday following. These volumes are themselves "not out of line" for a local street with some through continuity in a relatively densely populated area. However, the proportion of extraneous traffic amongst the counted vehicles is unknown.

For each of the four days surveyed, the 85th percentile traffic speed was below 50 km/h which is significantly better than that we usually encounter in our studies. This low speed is not unexpected given the relatively short block lengths in this neighbourhood. However, the short block length may contribute to a heightened perception of high speed travel particularly if vehicles accelerate and decelerate abruptly. Only a very small number of larger trucks were identified by the counters.

Our records of the crash history at Kingsway and 11th Avenue lists 18 occurrences between 1993 January and August of this year. Almost half of the crashes are classed as rear end on Kingsway and most of these are probably related to the Kingsway/10th Avenue signal. Less than half of the crashes could be related to the 11th Avenue intersection movements per se.

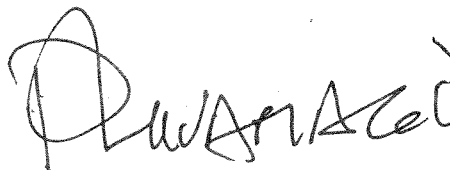
## 3.0 DISCUSSION

The "objective" data does not indicate a compelling traffic safety argument for the closure of 11th Avenue and Kingsway. For the residents along 11th Avenue the closure of the street would be beneficial in reducing traffic and particularly the extraneous traffic arising from the street prostitution problem. However, the street network in this neighbourhood has a grid layout which lends itself to a ready diversion of traffic to other routes. Thus the closure of 11th Avenue would additionally load other residential streets to the north with the diverted traffic including the unwanted circulating traffic related to the prostitution activity. The possibility of speed humps was discussed with Mrs. Edwards but she did not believe it would resolve the "cruising" issue. It is noted that all intersections in this area are stop controlled as a result of a previous comprehensive stop sign control initiative.

4.0 CONCLUSION

If traffic control measures were to be undertaken to minimize the intra-neighbourhood impact of street prostitution then traffic circulation in the whole neighbourhood north and west of 10th Avenue and Kingsway would have to be reviewed comprehensively with all area residents. Changes to the network such as closures or diversions would undoubtedly reduce accessibility for all residents and shift traffic volumes creating "winners" and "losers" in terms of the social benefits and costs. At the same time it would be difficult to predict how the street prostitution activity would adapt to the street network changes and the new problems that adaptation would create.

Accordingly, our conclusion is that the street prostitution problem that has prompted residents along 11th Avenue to seek closure of the street at Kingsway should be addressed more directly.



ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,  
TRAFFIC & ENG. SYSTEMS

PL:jb

cc: City Manager  
RCMP