

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
(TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION)

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**H. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT RUMBLE STREET AND GRAY AVENUE**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the installation of a pedestrian signal at Rumble Street and Gray Avenue at an estimated total cost of \$75,000 and the City seek funding support from ICBC.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Susan Brown, 7975 Strathearn Avenue, Burnaby, B. C. V5J 3Y4.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Traffic Safety Division), at its meeting held on 1998 December 08, received the attached report responding to concerns regarding the need for a signalized pedestrian crossing at the above noted location.

The Committee in reviewing the recommendations requested that Recommendation No. 1 be amended to include a provision for the City of Burnaby to seek funding support from ICBC.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. D. Berardine  
Mr. K. Friederici  
Mr. E. Fourchalk  
Mr. P. Herring  
Ms. L. Kapp  
Mr. A. MacDonald  
Mrs. D. Mumford  
Mrs. R. Oostlander  
Mr. J. Parminter  
Mr. D. Richardson

Councillor J. Young  
Chair

Councillor D. Evans  
Member

Councillor N. Volkow  
Member

COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
- DIRECTOR FINANCE

City of Burnaby

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 1998 11 06

FROM: ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,  
TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

FILE:

SUBJECT: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT RUMBLE STREET AND GRAY AVENUE

PURPOSE: TO RESPOND TO COMMITTEE CONCERNS REGARDING THE NEED FOR  
A SIGNALIZED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THIS LOCATION.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a pedestrian signal be installed at Rumble Street and Gray Avenue at an estimated total cost of \$75,000 subject to ICBC funding support.
2. That a copy of this report to be sent to Ms. Susan Brown, 7975 Strathearn Avenue, Burnaby B.C.

REPORT

**1.0 Background**

At its 1998 September 01 meeting the traffic safety committee received a staff report regarding the marked school crosswalk at Rumble Street and Gray Avenue. That report was written in response to concerns raised by Ms. Sue Brown in prior correspondence to the Traffic Safety Committee. Ms. Brown had offered a number of options for improving safety at this crossing given the then impending loss of an adult crossing guard at this location. Those options were discussed in the staff report and the addition of overhead signing at the present crosswalk was recommended. The correspondent had received a copy of the staff report and appeared as a delegation to express her concern regarding the adequacy of what

was proposed. After further consideration the Traffic Safety Committee concluded that a pedestrian activated signal best addressed concerns related to the present crosswalk. Accordingly, the Committee referred the staff report back for further review in order to determine the feasibility of installing a pedestrian signal at this location.

## **2.0 Review**

The crosswalk on Rumble at Gray is midway between the signals on Rumble at Nelson and at Sussex. As such it falls at the minimum preferred distance separation of 400 meters from adjacent signals that is specified in the application guidelines for pedestrian signals detailed in the Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual. While a signal at this location does not currently meet established warrants we would anticipate that the signal would provide service to pedestrians in this neighborhood as well as a safe crossing location for schoolchildren.

## **3.0 Funding**

The committee will recall that at its September meeting it also received a staff report that reviewed the implications of the School District ending its adult crossing guard programme due to funding constraints funding. In that report staff were optimistic that ICBC support would be forthcoming for both maintaining adult crossing guards on an interim basis and pedestrian improvements at locations controlled by the guards. The latter included funding support for the overhead signing proposed for the crosswalk of Rumble at Gray. ICBC has since written to us declining our request for \$100,000 toward the \$134,000 program for crossing location improvements that we had developed in consultation with School District officials. We understand that it is not ICBC policy to provide road improvement program funding unless there is a measured benefit:cost ratio of the least 2:1 within two years. The program proposed did not meet this criteria given the collision data histories at the locations reviewed.

It is also our understanding that the commitment of ICBC to funding adult crossing guard program for another year may have played some role in the denial of the request for crossing enhancements. Given that the proposed improvements will be desired if/when adult crossing guards are no longer employed we will be clarifying whether ICBC will play a role in funding the proposed crossing improvements when it ceases to fund the crossing guard program.

Accordingly, given that the Rumble at Gray crosswalk does not meet warrants for signalization at this time and that the crossing guard is back at this crossing we do not believe that there is an immediate or pressing need for the proposed improvements at this time. We also note that the City does not have sufficient funding in place to proceed with improvements without external support.

#### 4.0 Discussion and Conclusion

As requested staff have examined and confirmed the feasibility of providing a pedestrian signal at the existing marked school crosswalk on Rumble at Gray. Our recommendation is that the signal be installed subject to funding support from ICBC. Further clarification is required as to whether and when that funding support will be available. When the funding issue is resolved it may be necessary to prioritize elements of the recommended crossing improvements program relative to the City's budget. That would be the subject of a future report to the Committee.



ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,  
TRAFFIC & ENG. SYSTEMS

PL:jh

cc: City Manager