

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
(TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT DIVISION)

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: GRANGE STREET: RAISED MEDIAN BETWEEN MCKAY AND SUSSEX

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council forward a copy of the attached report to W.R. Armstrong, #204 - 4625 Grange Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1R1.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Transportation and Transit Division), at its meeting held on 1999 October 13, adopted the attached report to advise the Committee on the reasons for the recent construction of the raised median on Grange Street between McKay and Sussex in Metrotown.

MEMBERS:

Lyle Boivin  
Raymond Lupien  
Leanne Tatangelo

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor N. Volkow  
Chair

Councillor J. Young  
Vice Chair

Councillor D. Evans  
Member

:COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
- DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
(Transportation and Transit Division) 1999 October 07

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING FILE: 08.640G

**SUBJECT: GRANGE STREET: RAISED MEDIAN BETWEEN MCKAY AND SUSSEX**

**PURPOSE:** To advise the Traffic and Transportation Committee on the reasons for the recent construction of the raised median on Grange Street between McKay and Sussex in Metrotown.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to W.R. Armstrong, #204 - 4625 Grange Street, Burnaby, B.C.

**REPORT**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

At its regular meeting of 1999 September 08, the Traffic and Transportation Committee received correspondence from Mr. W.R. Armstrong expressing concerns regarding the recent construction of a raised median on Grange Street between McKay and Sussex Avenues and referred the matter to staff for a report.

The correspondent refers to the increased difficulty in accessing the apartment condominiums on the north side of Grange Street. Since the introduction of the median, as shown in *Figure 1 attached*, the residents approaching from the west on Grange cannot turn left from eastbound on Grange to northbound on Elsom Avenue or Booth Avenue to access their building which is located on the south side of Grange at the intersection with Elsom Avenue.

This report is written in response to the concerns raised by the correspondent.

**2. RAISED MEDIAN ON GRANGE**

The raised median on Grange Street was included as a servicing requirement for the hotel/residential development on the corner of Kingsway and McKay and the other developments in that block and was provided for the following reasons:

- **Arterial Function**

Grange/Dover Street from Patterson to Oakland is classified as a Secondary Arterial in the Burnaby Transportation Plan. The function of a Secondary Arterial is to carry primarily inter-municipal and non-local traffic between major centres of activity in the City (recreational centres, shopping centres etc.). To accommodate this function safely and efficiently, access to adjacent land uses must be limited. Restricting turning movements into and out of adjacent land uses by using a raised median accommodates the efficient flow of traffic demanded on an arterial roadway for all types of vehicles but especially those making longer trips (including buses and trucks).

- **Traffic Safety**

Making left turn movements at an unsignalized intersection on a busy arterial road presents a higher than average probability of a head-on or T-bone type of collision. The presence of a raised median on Grange Street guides these sometimes difficult maneuvers to the signalized intersections where turns into and out of the residential area are made more easily and safely.

- **Left Turn Bay**

The raised median protects the left turn bay on Grange at McKay from vehicles left turning through the left turn bay on or off Grange Street, an additional feature to enhance safety. The raised median on Willingdon exercises a similar function.

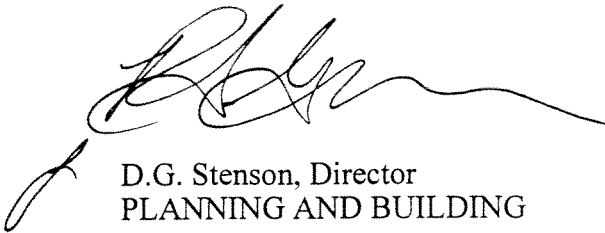
With the provision of the raised median access to the condominium complex from the east and south is unaffected, but access from the west requires a left turn from Grange to Willingdon or Sussex northbound. Access from the north is taken via Bond Street, a Local Collector, or Sussex with minimal conflict with pedestrians. Both streets have sidewalks.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The correspondent raises concerns regarding the restrictions on access created by the installation of a raised median on Grange Street. Staff recognizes the correspondent's concerns regarding the more circuitous access required when returning home. Similar concerns have on occasion been expressed elsewhere in Burnaby where raised medians have been installed as part of an arterial standard of design. However, this minor inconvenience needs to be weighed against the safety concerns and traffic delays that could result if changes were made to the existing raised median.

The installation of a raised median on an arterial road sometimes evokes objections from owners of adjacent land uses, especially if that land use is a business that was established based on full

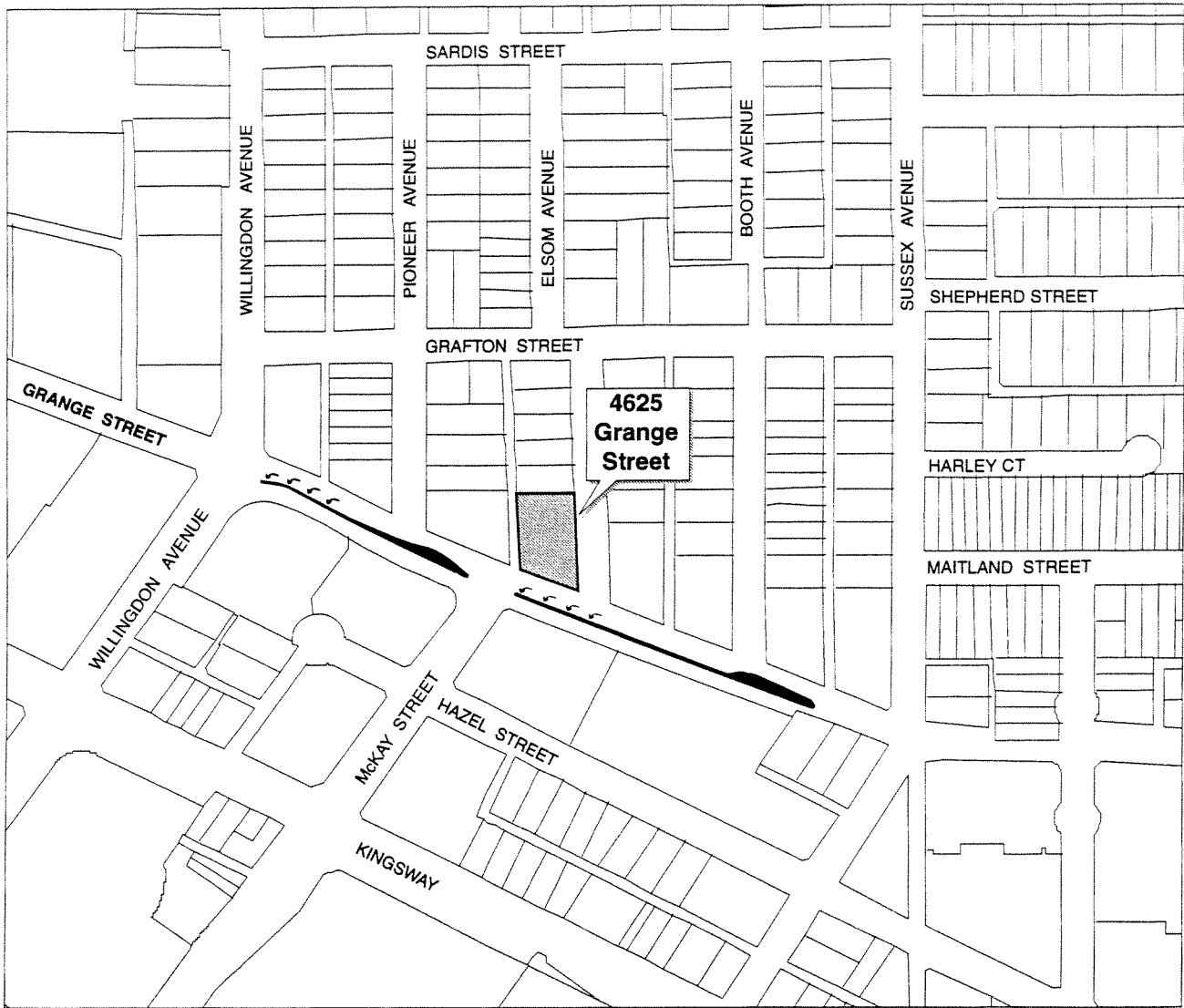
movement access. In most cases, however, the patrons of a business or adjacent residents in an area alter their travel patterns and over time become adjusted to the changed circumstances.



D.G. Stenson, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RG\dh  
Attachment

cc: City Manager  
Director Engineering



**Figure 1**  
**Raised Medians on Grange Street**



