

CITY OF BURNABY

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: WALKER AVENUE: INTERIM TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *THAT* Council approve the implementation of interim traffic calming measures on Walker Avenue between Burris and Stanley Streets as shown in Figure 2 of this report.
2. *THAT* Council defer the implementation of the median barrier on Walker Avenue at Burris Street for further consideration.
3. *THAT* a copy of this report be forwarded to all residents of Walker Avenue between Burris and Imperial Streets.

REPORT

The Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on 2003 October 08, received and adopted the *attached* report requesting approval for the implementation of interim traffic calming measures on Walker Avenue between Burris and Stanley Streets.

The Committee received two delegations relating to the issue of a median being built on Walker Avenue adjacent to the Deer Lake Market. The delegations expressed concerns relating to the loss of business that would occur for the Deer Lake Market if the median is constructed as currently planned in front of the market driveway.

Arising from the Committee's consideration of the implementation of the median barrier on Walker Avenue, the Committee recommended that this matter be deferred to consider the issues raised by the delegations.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Nick Volkow  
Chair

Councillor Doug Evans  
Vice Chair

Councillor Lee Rankin  
Member

COPY: CITY MANAGER  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
FIRE CHIEF  
OFFICER IN CHARGE, RCMP  
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2003 October 01

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

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**SUBJECT: WALKER AVENUE: INTERIM TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

**PURPOSE:** To request approval from the Transportation Committee and Council for the implementation of interim traffic calming measures on Walker Avenue between Burris and Stanley Streets.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council approve the implementation of interim traffic calming measures on Walker Avenue between Burris and Stanley Streets as shown in *Figure 2* of this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to all residents of Walker Avenue between Burris and Imperial Streets.

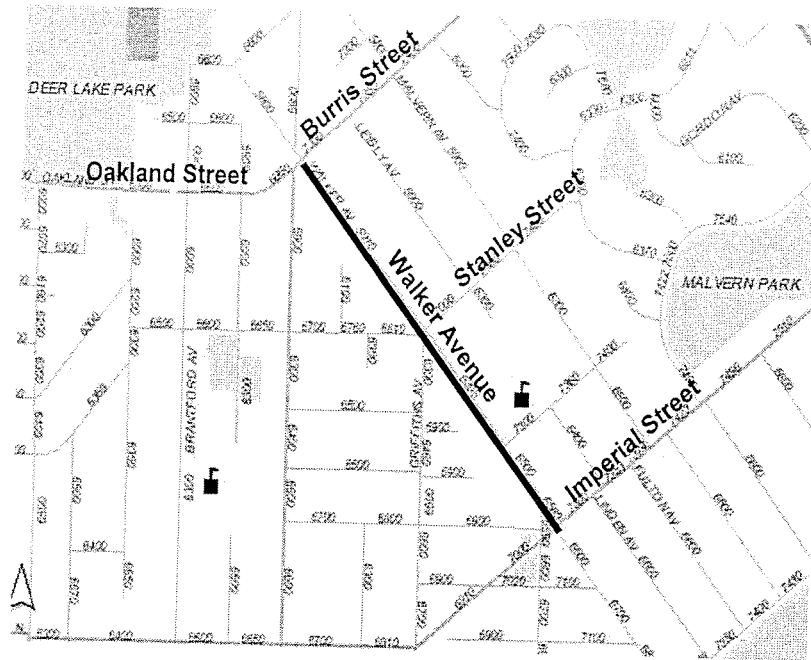
**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At its regular meeting of 2003 April 09, the Transportation Committee requested staff to review traffic measures on Walker Avenue from Oakland /Burris to Imperial (*Figure 1*) in response to concerns about traffic volume and speed raised by a delegation of residents of the Burris to Stanley block of Walker Avenue. These residents had recently had their street reconstructed under a Local Improvement Program.

Subsequently on 2003 July 25, staff met with a group of residents from Walker Avenue between Burris and Stanley to review their concerns and develop an approach to respond to these traffic issues. At this meeting, residents identified the need for immediate measures to address the issue of speeding traffic. In the course of these discussions, staff developed an approach which would include the more immediate implementation of traffic calming measures on Walker Avenue and a possible process to address any concerns of the wider neighbourhood including the section of Walker Avenue between Stanley and Imperial.

Figure 1  
Walker Avenue



As the residents of the Stanley to Imperial section had not been consulted regarding these immediate measures, Council, at its regular meeting of 2003 September 15, approved forwarding for question or comment a copy of a report outlining interim traffic calming measures to all residents on Walker between Burris and Imperial .

## 2.0 INTERIM TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

To address the issues of speeding and poor driver behavior on Walker Avenue between Burris and Stanley, the following traffic calming measures have been discussed with residents of this section:

- **median barrier on Walker at the intersection with Burris** - to prevent traffic conflicts and to “throttle down” or narrow Walker Avenue at the intersection.
- **three temporary traffic calming measures** - to reduce traffic speeds on Walker, the temporary installation of raised median islands was discussed with residents and the necessary removal of parking adjacent to the islands has been agreed to by the affected residents.

Figure 2 shows the approximate location of the temporary median barrier and the raised median islands as favoured by the residents. These islands have also been marked out in the field. These measures are not expected to address the issue of excessive traffic volumes on Walker, or the issue of the imbalance of traffic relative to Sperling, but should slow traffic and improve safety on Walker Avenue.

Figure 2  
Walker Avenue: Interim Traffic Calming Measures



### 3.0 PUBLIC RESPONSE

#### 3.1 Comments on Report

The report to Council outlining the proposed interim traffic calming measures for Walker Avenue between Burris and Stanley was forwarded to the 65 properties on Walker from Burris to Imperial on 2003 September 16. Of the seven residents who

responded, six by telephone and one by letter, all were from the Stanley to Imperial block of Walker and all were favourable to the interim traffic calming measures. Some had additional comments:

- three residents noted the need to also address the volume of traffic as well as the speed and one suggested a more extensive neighbourhood process involving more residents of the area. The need for broader process could be assessed at the conclusion of the monitoring process.
- two residents suggested a similar interim traffic calming treatment for the block from Stanley to Imperial. Staff would want to await the outcome of the monitoring process, before considering a similar treatment will be considered for the Stanley to Imperial block of Walker.
- one resident noted the heavy volume of trucks on Walker Avenue. Walker is not a truck route but is being used by construction vehicles originating or destined to the Highgate development project. The interim traffic calming measures, to some degree, will discourage truck traffic on Walker.
- one resident noted the insufficient street lighting on the section of Walker between Stanley and Imperial. Staff will assess the level of street lighting on Walker to determine if there is a need to provide an additional leased light. Otherwise, any improvement in streetlighting would have to be part of a local improvement project.

In summary, the comments from Walker Avenue residents support proceeding with the interim traffic calming measures from Burris to Stanley and potentially extending the application of traffic calming measures to the Stanley to Imperial block of Walker.

### **3.2 Monitoring Process**

Should the interim traffic calming measures be approved by Council, it is proposed to monitor for a six-month period after installation to determine the impact of the measures on traffic volumes and speeds and overall safety on Walker Avenue. During this time, there may have to be fine tuning of the size and position of the islands.

As these traffic calming measures will affect not only residents living on the Burriss to Stanley section of Walker, but also residents from the surrounding neighbourhood who use Walker Avenue as a Local Collector to get to and from their homes, part of the monitoring process will involve reporting on any concerns expressed by residents living on other streets in the neighbourhood. Staff will report on these results at the conclusion of the monitoring period in Spring 2004.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

Residents of Walker Avenue between Burriss and Stanley have raised concerns regarding the volume and speed of traffic for some years. More recently, with the implementation of a LIP on Walker Avenue between Burriss and Stanley, traffic speeds have become an issue with residents.

After meeting with the residents of the Burriss to Stanley block of Walker Avenue, staff proposed some traffic calming options to address the concerns of this block with a recommendation for residents of the Burriss to Imperial Street blocks of Walker to be sent a copy of the report. After allowing for a two-week period for residents to comment, staff received favourable comments on the interim traffic calming proposals as well as other suggestions from residents. Based on this input, this report recommends implementation of these interim traffic calming measures.

Staff will work with the residents of this block to fine tune the shape, size and other design features of the proposed interim traffic calming measures in consultation with the residents, RCMP and Fire Department. Following implementation of these measures, staff would monitor their effectiveness and acceptance by the neighbourhood over a six-month period and come back to the Transportation Committee and Council with a report.

Should Council concur with the recommendations of this report, staff would implement the interim measures immediately. As mentioned in a previous report to Council, the costs associated with these measures are relatively minor and can be accommodated within the Engineering Departments operating budget.



J. S. Belhouse, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RG/jc

cc: City Manager  
Fire Chief

Director Engineering  
Officer in Charge, RCMP