
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT WALKER AVENUE
AND IMPERIAL STREET**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Laura Mazerolle, 6079 Walker Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5E 3B5.

REPORT

The Traffic Safety Committee, at its meeting held on 2011 June 07, received and adopted the *attached* report providing information regarding a review of pedestrian safety concerns at the intersection of Walker Avenue and Imperial Street. A request was received from Ms. Laura Mazerolle expressing concerns in relation to pedestrian crossing safety, at the aforementioned intersection, in particular visibility of pedestrians at night.

A review of the intersection concluded that the installation of a special crosswalk is not supported and that the installation of a full traffic signal is not advantageous for pedestrians. The Director Engineering recommended the installation of an additional street light at the southeast corner of the intersection to improve night time visibility of pedestrians. Installation of a sidewalk curb ramp at the southwest corner has also been recommended to make the entire intersection wheelchair accessible.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Vice Chair

Councillor P. McDonell
Member

Copied to: City Manager Director Engineering

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2011 June 02

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 38000 20
Ref: Traffic Safety

SUBJECT: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT WALKER AVE AND IMPERIAL ST

PURPOSE: To review pedestrian safety concerns at the intersection of Walker and Imperial

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report and forward it to Council for information.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Laura Mazerolle, 6079 Walker Ave, Burnaby BC V5E 3B5.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

On 2011 March 01, the Committee received correspondence from Ms. Laura Mazerolle expressing concerns about pedestrian crossing safety at Walker Ave and Imperial St. In particular, Ms. Mazerolle was concerned about the visibility of pedestrians at night and requested the installation of a flashing pedestrian crossing light (special crosswalk). The Committee referred the matter to staff for review.

INTERSECTION REVIEW

The intersection of Walker Ave and Imperial St is controlled by 4-way stop signs (See Figure 1). Walker Ave and Imperial St are both classified as collector streets with two-way pm peak hour volumes of about 500 vehicles per hour and 1,000 vehicles per hour, respectively. A review of the collision history at the intersection did not reveal any pedestrian related collisions between 2006 and 2010. On average, slightly over 5 collisions per year occur at the intersection with no unusual patterns identified (including or excluding parking lot crashes and crashes involving parked vehicles). Interim standard street lighting (street lights on wooden utility poles) exists along Walker Ave and west along Imperial St. Imperial St east of the intersection has final standard street lights on metal poles. During the pm peak hour, pedestrian volumes are highest across the east leg of Imperial with approximately 30 pedestrians crossing per hour, and lowest across the west leg of Imperial and the north leg of Walker Ave with less than 3 pedestrians

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From: Director Engineering
Re: Pedestrian Safety at Walker Ave and Imperial St
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crossing per hour. All corners of the intersection, except the southwest corner, have sidewalk curb ramps to facilitate wheelchair access.

The request for a special crosswalk (with overhead signs and flashing beacons activated by pedestrian push buttons) was considered, but was found to be inappropriate for a 4-way stop controlled intersection. Special crosswalks are only installed across an uncontrolled street crossing. Installation at 4-way stop controlled intersections would cause confusion to motorists and would likely increase collisions. The installation of a full traffic signal was also considered, but it is also not recommended because it would be less convenient for pedestrians who will have to wait for a green light to cross, and it would increase speeds for vehicles provided with a green light.

To enhance pedestrian safety during the night time, the installation of an additional street light on the existing wooden utility pole at the southeast corner of the intersection is recommended. The installation of a sidewalk curb ramp at the southwest corner of the intersection is also recommended to make the entire intersection wheelchair accessible. Based on current traffic and pedestrian volumes, no other changes are recommended at this time. Pedestrians are reasonably well accommodated with the existing 4-way stop controlled intersections based on field observations and past collision history.

CONCLUSION

A review of pedestrian concerns at the intersection of Walker Ave and Imperial St concluded that the installation of a special crosswalk is not supported, and that the installation of a full traffic signal is not advantageous for pedestrians. However, the installation of an additional street light at the southeast corner of the intersection is recommended to improve night time visibility of pedestrians. The installation of a sidewalk curb ramp at the southwest corner is also recommended to make the entire intersection wheelchair accessible. Both improvements will be accommodated within the 2011 Engineering budget.

This report is provided for information.

Lambert S. Chu, P. Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

DL/
Attachment
Copied to: City Manager