

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT CAPITOL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the installation of the various traffic control measures outlined in this report.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Capitol Hill Elementary School Parent Advisory Council, Capitol Hill Elementary School, and School District 41 for information.

REPORT

The Traffic Safety Committee, at its meeting held on 2014 January 07, received and adopted the *attached* report responding to safety concerns raised by the Capitol Hill Elementary School Parent Advisory Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Engineering OIC RCMP
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2013 Dec 18

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE:

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT CAPITOL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE: To review safety concerns raised by the Capitol Hill Elementary School Parent Advisory Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend to Council the installation of the various traffic control measures outlined in this report, and
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Capitol Hill Elementary School Parent Advisory Council, Capitol Hill Elementary School, and School District 41 for information.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

On 2013 November 05, the Traffic Safety Committee received a petition from the Capitol Hill School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) regarding traffic safety concerns. The petition requested that the City undertake a traffic assessment and to implement measures to address jay-walking, double parking, speeding and u-turns along Holdom Ave where much of the school's drop off and pick up activities occur. The petition also requested visible and regular police traffic patrol to enforce such regulations, and the expansion of the school's current parking facility accessed from Pandora St.

2.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Capitol Hill Elementary School is located in Capitol Hill area bounded by Hastings St, Holdom Ave, Pandora St, and Warwick Ave as shown in Figure 1. Hastings St is classified as an arterial street and Holdom Ave is classified as a local collector. Pandora and Warwick are both classified as a local residential street. The intersection of Hastings and Holdom is controlled by a traffic signal, and the intersection of Holdom and Pandora is controlled by 4-way stop signs with marked crosswalks.

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Along the school's frontage on the east side of Holdom Ave, parking is restricted to 10 minutes only between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM during schooldays. A similar restriction exists along the south side of Pandora just east of Holdom for about 90 metres. These parking regulations support the drop off and pick up activities which occur regularly during school days. There is also a small parking lot for visitors on the north side of the school accessed from Pandora St that can be used as a pick-up and drop-off area for students.

School and playground signs with 30 kmh speed limits surround the school along Holdom, Pandora and Warwick. A school crossing guard is provided at the intersection of Hastings and Holdom to assist parents and children crossing the street before and after school.

3.0 FINDINGS

Traffic activity surrounding the school were observed and found to be typical of many other schools. There is some traffic congestion before and after school that usually lasts for about 30 minutes while parents pick up or drop off their children. Most of this activity occurs along Holdom Ave near the front doors of the school. It was also noted that most of the concerns are a direct result of the behavior of either parents driving to and from school, or the children themselves not crossing the street at appropriate locations. While the City's Parking Bylaw Officers and RCMP Officers can undertake parking and traffic enforcement as priorities and resources allow, there is much that the PAC and school administration can and should do to encourage appropriate behavior from their students and their parents. Based on field observations and discussions with the Principal and members of Capitol Hill School PAC, the following measures are recommended to enhance traffic safety:

- a. The City to mark a solid yellow centre line along Holdom between Hastings and Pandora. This will help to better organize traffic flow, and discourage double parking, u-turns, and driving on the wrong side of the road.
- b. The City to extend the on-street pick up and drop off zone further north along the east side of Holdom, and further east along the south side of Pandora as shown on Figure 1. This will help to provide an alternative to double parking and address the concern regarding the lack of available pick up and drop off parking spaces.
- c. The PAC and school administration should have direct discussions with the School District if it wants the existing on-site visitor parking lot expanded to create additional parking spaces for pick up and drop off activities.
- d. The City to install a No U-Turn sign along Holdom in front of the school to enhance traffic safety and reduce traffic congestion during peak periods.
- e. The PAC and school administration to discourage midblock crossing by requesting that parents refrain from parking on the west side of Holdom or requesting that their children cross at existing intersections. Creating a mid block crosswalk is not recommended as that would reduce the number of available on-street parking spaces for pick up and drop off activities, and may reduce safety by instilling a false sense of security for those using the crosswalk.

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- f. The PAC and school administration should send notifications to all students and their parents regarding behavior expectations regarding traffic safety surrounding the school. This may include traffic circulation around the school in a clockwise direction to minimize the necessity of students having to cross the street while being picked up or dropped off. Volunteer parents or school administrators can further encourage this behavior by monitoring the situation before and after school, and if required and appropriate, seek further assistance from the City or RCMP to deal with chronic bylaw or traffic infractions.

4.0 CONCLUSION

A review was completed regarding traffic safety concerns at Capitol Hill Elementary School. The striping of a solid yellow centre line, the provision of additional on-street pick up and drop off zones, and the installation of a No U-Turn sign are recommended to enhance traffic safety. Several recommendations were also made to the PAC and school administration to encourage appropriate behaviour by their students and their parents. Active involvement by the PAC and school administrators is important to effectively deal with traffic issues that are largely a result of the school's population. City and RCMP resources will continue to provide follow-up support where appropriate and as resources and priorities allow.

Leon A. Gous, P. Eng. MBA
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

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Attachment

Copied to: City Manager
Superintendent Dave Critchley, OIC Burnaby RCMP