

DATE OF MEETING APRIL 29, 2019

AUTHORED BY JAMIE ROSE, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT OPAL ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To seek Council approval to install a partial road closure on Opal Road at Rock City Road for the purpose of reducing non-resident traffic on Opal Road.

Recommendation

That Council approve the installation of a partial road closure on Opal Road at Rock City Road for the purpose of reducing non-resident traffic on Opal Road.

BACKGROUND

Opal Road is a local road located in the Rock City Neighbourhood, which provides a short connection between Rock City Road and Uplands Drive. It is approximately 350m long, with 24 single family dwellings, and no dedicated pedestrian or cycling facilities. In 2006 the residents of the block requested that a traffic calming study be undertaken as they felt that traffic volume and speed was too high and that they had significant safety concerns.

Using the City's traffic calming guideline, Staff undertook a process of gathering data, engaging with the residents, and following through with a plan to address the issues. At that time, speed humps were chosen as the most appropriate form of traffic calming.

In 2018, residents of Opal Road contacted City Staff again with concerns that traffic volumes had increased significantly and they wanted to undertake another traffic calming review.

Based on this request, Staff conducted a traffic calming study and found that the volume of traffic on Opal Road had increased by over 27% since 2006. The average daily traffic on Opal Road is now over 1400, whereas local roads have a capacity for 1000. Through further traffic analysis and conversations with residents, Staff have determined that the majority of the non-resident traffic is coming from or going to the recently developed land to the east and is using Opal Road to bypass the intersections of Rock City Road and Departure Bay Road, and Departure Bay Road and Uplands Drive.

To address the short cutting issues on Opal Road, Staff are recommending that a partial closure be installed on Opal Road at Rock City Road to prohibit traffic from entering Opal Road and turning left out of Opal Road.

OPTIONS

1. That Council approve the installation of a partial road closure on Opal Road at Rock City Road for the purpose of reducing non-resident traffic on Opal Road.
 - **Budget Implication:** Allocate \$15,000 from within the existing 2019-2023 Financial Plan.
 - **Strategic Implication:** Implementing a traffic calming strategy will support the Transportation Master Plan's goal of making streets safer and more livable.
2. That Council provide an alternative direction to Staff.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Speed Humps were installed on Opal Road in 2008, following a traffic calming review.
- A traffic calming review was undertaken in 2018 and traffic data indicates a 27% increase in traffic on Opal Road.
- The traffic data indicates that the majority of vehicles are non-resident.
- A partial road closure will force short cutting traffic to remain on major roads.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Opal Traffic Calming 2019

Submitted by:

Jamie Rose
Manager of Transportation

Concurrence by:

Poul Rosen
Senior Manager of Engineering