

DATE OF MEETING | DECEMBER 16, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | JAMIE ROSE, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION |

SUBJECT | DEPARTURE BAY ROAD SEASONAL TRAFFIC CALMING PILOT PROJECT UPDATE |

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

This report provides information to Council with the results of the temporary installation of the 40 km/h speed zone on Departure Bay Road adjacent to Departure Bay beach.

BACKGROUND

Departure Bay is one of Nanaimo’s premier summer destinations. The beach and Centennial Park are huge draws for residents and visitors, which creates a significant seasonal increase in pedestrian activity. In an effort to address speeding concerns raised by residents, staff, in consultation with the RCMP and ICBC undertook a pilot project to reduce the speed limit on Departure Bay Road from 50 km/h to 40 km/h for the summer. The change went into effect in May and was to be removed in October. |

DISCUSSION

During the pilot project, staff received feedback that the change was good, but not good enough. This was corroborated by traffic data, which indicated a 1 kph or 3kph reduction in majority vehicle speeds, depending on the direction of travel. See the below table for summary of data.

Date of Count	Posted Speed Limit	Directional Volume - Average Weekday Daily Traffic		Directional Speed – 85 th Percentile	
		Northbound	Southbound	Northbound	Southbound
October 2015	50 km/h	5242 vpd	6005 vpd	59 km/h	56 km/h
September 2019	40 km/h	6457 vpd	7950 vpd	56 km/h	55 km/h
Change		6% per year increase	8% per year increase	3 km/h decrease – still exceeds 40 km/h posted	1 km/h decrease – still exceeds 40 km/h posted

CONCLUSION

The outcome of this project is consistent with changes limited to traffic signage. In order to see meaningful changes in driver behaviour, it is necessary to introduce physical traffic calming features, such as horizontal or vertical deflections, whatever is most appropriate to the class of road.

Moving forward, the pre-pilot project signage will be reinstated before year end and staff will begin the planning process for a more effective seasonal traffic calming plan on Departure Bay Road for the summer of 2020.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The pilot project to reduce the speed limit during the summer, had little impact on travel speeds and more engineering is required to have substantial impact.
- The original speed limit will be reinstated before year end.
- Staff will begin planning a seasonal traffic calming plan for implementation in the summer of 2020.

Submitted by:

Jamie Rose
Manager, Transportation

Concurrence by:

Poul Rosen
Director, Engineering