

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 13, 2020  
 AUTHORED BY JAMIE ROSE, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION  
 SUBJECT **OPAL ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To update Council on the outcome of installing 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 and again in 2018, the residents of the block requested that a traffic calming study be undertaken as they felt that traffic volume and speed were too high and they had significant safety concerns.

Staff conducted a traffic calming study and recommended a partial closure to prohibit traffic from entering Opal Road and turning left out of Opal Road. Council approved this change in April 2019 and it was installed in September 2019. This report summarizes the results of the partial road closure and its impacts on traffic speeds, volumes and operations.

## **DISCUSSION**

A traffic calming diverter was installed in September 2019; see attached design drawing. Traffic volumes have decreased by more than half with traffic speeds remaining virtually unchanged. The summary is shown in the table below:

Factor	2006	2018	Nov 2019	Results
85 <sup>th</sup> percentile speed	49 km/h	41 km/h	42 km/h	~ no change
Average daily traffic	1100 vehicles	1330 vehicles	620 vehicles	Reduction of 710 vehicles, or, 53% fewer

A concern was raised that the impact to the adjacent major road intersections of Departure Bay Road at Rock City Road and at Uplands Drive. Traffic counts indicate that these intersections have absorbed the additional traffic with little impact.

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff will continue to work with the RCMP to enforce existing traffic regulations and will explore opportunities to revise the traffic calming design to address illegal movements. |

## **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The partial road closure has been successful in reducing traffic volume on Opal Road by 53%.
- Staff will take steps to address the illegal turning movements that persist.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Opal Traffic Island 2019 |

### **Submitted by:**

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### **Concurrence by:**

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