



Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association

1470 Bay Street, Nanaimo, BC V9S 2Z7

May 27, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC
V9R 5J6

mayor&council@nanaimo.ca

Departure Bay is unique in Nanaimo, being a popular beachfront and recreational area transected by a busy commuter, transit and emergency response route. It is important that the road allows these competing uses to safely exist. Unfortunately, many drivers travel through this area with little regard for speed limits.

We have written on previous occasions reporting the results of vehicle speed monitoring on Departure Bay Road near Kin Hut. The speed limit at this location is 50 km/h with a precautionary limit of 30 km/h due to the presence of the beach, public park and children's playground. The average speed for all measurements by the DBNA is 53.3 km/h. The highest velocity measured is 97km/h and the number of drivers recorded following the precautionary limit is 4 out of 580. This stretch of road is clearly dominated by vehicles.

Last summer the city traffic department conducted a 40 km/h trial speed limit which resulted in reductions of 1 and 3 km/h depending upon direction of travel. Monitoring done by the DBNA showed similar reductions. The trial was considered a failure.

A trial done by the DBNA consisting of placing traffic cones at the ends and in the middle of the Loat Street crosswalk. We reported average speed reductions of 4 and 7 km/h. On the basis of this last trial the DBNA concluded it is unlikely traffic will slow down unless significant calming measures are employed. The city traffic department has come to a similar conclusion. Installing calming modifications along this waterfront section needs to consider impacts on vehicle users as well as cyclists and pedestrians

We have spent time reviewing calming measures implemented in other areas. Many are simple, inexpensive and can be installed very quickly while others require design by transportation professionals. The following is a list of traffic calming installations we are requesting be implemented along this waterfront road:

- Install precautionary signs mid road at the three existing crosswalks, similar to Fitzwilliam St.
- Install flexible lane dividers down the middle of the road similar to Estevan Road
- Extend curbing at all crosswalks similar to Commercial St.
- Paint a 3 to 4 ft wide "curbside lane" in each direction, full width and preferably green
- Install a fourth crosswalk at the Bay St intersection
- Install pedestrian-controlled warning lights at all crosswalks

www.dbna.ca

e-mail: dbna.nanaimo@gmail.com



Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association

1470 Bay Street, Nanaimo, BC V9S 2Z7

Also, for consideration:

- Paint the entire 400m road length as a crosswalk
- Install raised crosswalks at Loat and Bay Streets
- Install a concrete divider down the middle of the road

The Departure Bay Community Plan identifies this section of road as a residential, commercial and recreational area. Installing the above will slow traffic making this roadway less dominated by motor vehicles. Making this roadway more pedestrian friendly is consistent with this plan.

We trust you will give this request fair consideration.

On behalf of the departure Bay Neighbourhood Association

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. A. Easton', written in a cursive style.

C. A.(Chuck) Easton