

DATE OF MEETING MAY 14, 2025

AUTHORED BY MADELEINE KOCH, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT SPECIALIST

SUBJECT PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE PRIORITIES

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To present the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusivity with information on the pedestrian improvement projects being recommended to Council for expenditure of their \$300,000 Pedestrian Unallocated Budget for 2025.

BACKGROUND

Each year, Nanaimo City Council allocates \$300,000 towards pedestrian mobility and safety projects throughout the City. This Pedestrian Unallocated Budget is intended to address smaller-scale pedestrian improvement projects more quickly than would be possible via the typical financial planning process.

Staff prepare a report annually for Council with potential projects for their consideration. The 2025 Staff report will be provided to Council later this spring. Projects that improve crosswalk safety are commonly recommended by Staff, as research shows that most collisions between drivers and pedestrians occur at crossings.

Staff identify priority crosswalks using our Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool. This map-based tool assigns a score to each crosswalk in Nanaimo, with higher scores indicating higher priority for improvements. Scores are based on trip-generation factors and risk factors. More details on the tool and its prioritization factors can be found on the [City's website](#).

DISCUSSION

For 2025, Staff will be recommending that Council allocate funding towards high priority pedestrian crosswalks. Note that the high scoring crosswalks identified by the Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool were refined by excluding the following types of crosswalks:

- Those at controlled intersections (either traffic lights or stop signs), since the rights and responsibilities of both pedestrians and drivers are understood at these types of intersections. Furthermore, interventions to improve pedestrian safety at these intersections are typically quite complex and costly.
- Those that are within the scope of an upcoming capital project, as these projects typically provide an opportunity to make improvements to transportation infrastructure - often at a reduced cost.

2025 Projects for Council's Consideration

For 2025, Staff will be recommending the following projects for Pedestrian Unallocated funding:

Townsite Road at St. Patrick Crescent

Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool Score: 50

Recommended Treatment: Raised crosswalk and lighting improvements

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

Rationale:

This crosswalk's high score is primarily due to trip generation factors. These include proximity to a highly used transit stop, its location within the Hospital Urban Centre, and economic equity considerations. Risk factors affecting this crossing include high traffic volumes and a known collision involving an active transportation user.

Wallace Street at Franklyn Street

Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool Score: 48

Recommended Treatment: New raised crosswalk on north side of intersection

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

Rationale:

This crosswalk's high score is primarily due to trip generation factors. These include its location within the Primary Urban Centre land use designation, economic equity considerations, and its high WalkScore rating. The most significant risk factor affecting this location is traffic volume.

Staff propose adding a new raised crosswalk at the north side of the intersection. In addition to slowing traffic, this new crossing location provides a shorter crossing distance and reduces the potential for conflicts between pedestrians and drivers.

Portsmouth Road at Applecross Road

Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool Score: 47

Recommended Treatment: Raised Crosswalk

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

Rationale:

This crosswalk's high score is primarily due to trip generation factors. These include its location within an Urban Centre, having a high WalkScore rating, and proximity to a highly-used transit stop. Crossing distance is the most significant risk factor affecting this location.

Pedestrian improvements at this crossing were strongly supported during community consultation for the Woodgrove Area Plan.

2025 Secondary Projects

The following potential projects have also been reviewed by Staff but are not included in the recommendation to Council for 2025, as the budget would be exceeded. However, Council may consider re-prioritising any of the following projects for funding in 2025, either by removing projects from the recommended list above, or by allocating additional funds from other budgets to cover costs over and above the \$300,000 Pedestrian Unallocated budget.

Waddington Road at Dufferin Crescent

Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool Score: 47

Recommended Treatment: Raised crosswalk

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

Discussion:

This location has the same ranking as Portsmouth @ Applecross and is driven by similar trip generation and risk factors. Ultimately, Staff are recommending Portsmouth @ Applecross over this location given the strong public support expressed during recent community consultation for the Woodgrove Area Plan.

Mary Ellen Drive at Dover Road

Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool Score: 46

Recommended Treatment: Two-stage crossing

Cost Estimate: \$150,000

Discussion:

As the existing crosswalk crosses multiple vehicle lanes, this location is a strong candidate for a two-stage crossing including flashing lights and a pedestrian refuge area at the half-way point of the crossing.

Staff excluded this project from the 2025 recommendations as it would require a substantial portion of the Pedestrian Unallocated budget. It is possible to fund three raised crosswalk projects within the budget. However, if this two-stage crossing were funded, only two projects would be possible with the 2025 funds.

Other Locations Considered:

The following locations have substantial scores but were excluded from Staff's recommendation in favour of the higher-scoring crosswalks noted above. As the higher-scoring crosswalks receive improvements, it is likely that future pedestrian unallocated funding will support recommendations at the locations listed below.

In addition to the prioritization scoring, these crosswalk locations have been brought to Staff's attention through requests from the public.

Location	Score	Notes
Elizabeth St at Howard Ave	41.5	Members of the Fairview Elementary School community have submitted 19 requests for safety enhancements at this crossing, and the crossing at Second St @ Kamp Pl.
Second St at Kamp Pl	39.5	See above
Hammond Bay Rd at Kenwill Dr	41	Staff have received four requests for safety improvements at this crosswalk, some in anticipation of Rutherford Elementary School re-opening this September.
Sierra Way at McGirr Rd	38.5	Staff have received a request for safety improvements to the crosswalk on McGirr Rd. Traffic safety improvements at this location are also supported by the McGirr Elementary Active School Travel Plan.

Previous Year Project Update

Following is a table showing the pedestrian unallocated projects approved since 2023, and the completion status of these. See Attachment A for a map of project locations over the past five years.

Location	Project	Status
2023		
Departure Bay Rd south sidewalk (Alan-A-Dale to Wardropper Park)	Sidewalk	Completed Aug 2024
Dufferin Cres at Grant Ave	Raised crosswalk and curb return	Design in progress
Pine St and Wentworth St	Rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs), improved street lighting, shortened crossing	Design in progress
Howard Ave at Regal St	Raised crosswalk	Completed Sept 2024
Dover Rd at Applecross Rd	RRFBs	Design in progress
Brickyard Rd at Broadway Rd	Islands, centre line signage, revised pavement markings	Under construction
3700 Block of Departure Bay Rd	RRFBs	Completed Sept 2024
400 Block of Campbell St	Raised crosswalk	Design in progress
2024		
Albert St at Dunsmuir St	Raised crosswalk	Design in progress
Albert St at Selby St	Raised crosswalk	Design in progress

CONCLUSION

The Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool continues to support high value pedestrian infrastructure investments across Nanaimo. This year's recommended projects have been prioritized primarily due to their relatively high prioritization scores.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Each year, Nanaimo City Council allocates \$300,000 towards smaller-scale pedestrian improvement projects throughout the City.
- Staff will be recommending that Council consider allocating 2025 funds towards three raised crosswalk projects in Nanaimo.
- The recommended sites were identified using Staff's Crosswalk Improvement Prioritization Tool, along with site and costing analysis.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Pedestrian Unallocated Project Map 2020-2024 |

Submitted by:

Madeleine Koch
Active Transportation Project Specialist
Transportation |

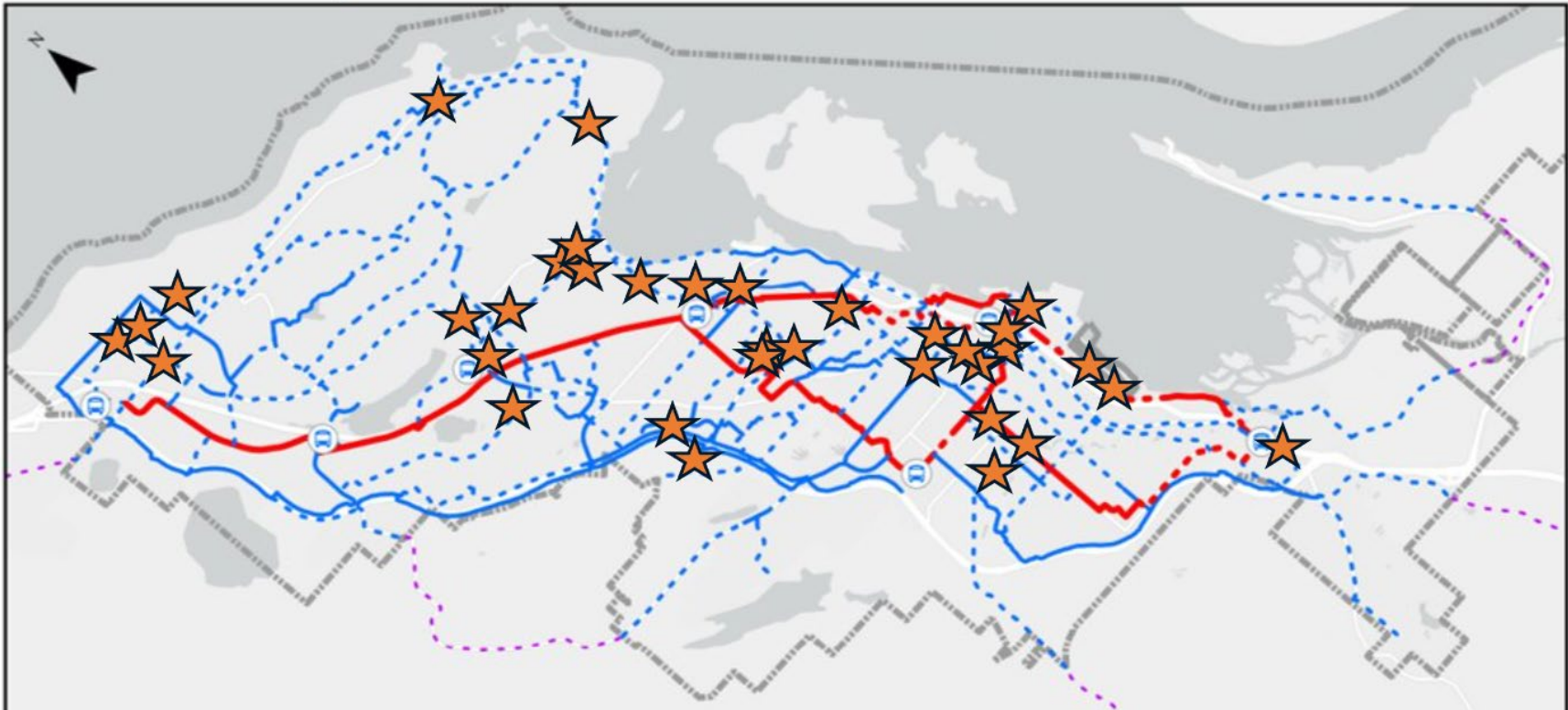
Concurrence by:

Jamie Rose
Manager, Transportation

Poul Rosen
Director, Engineering

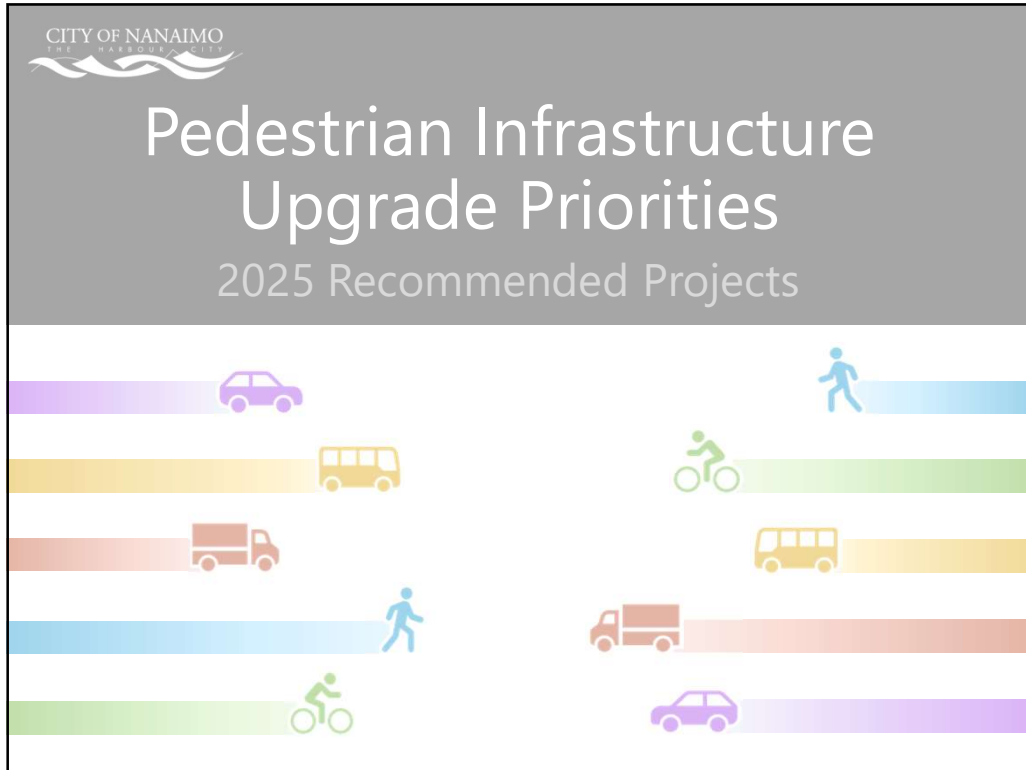
Bill Sims
General Manager, Engineering & Public
Works |

Pedestrian Unallocated Project Locations 2020-2024

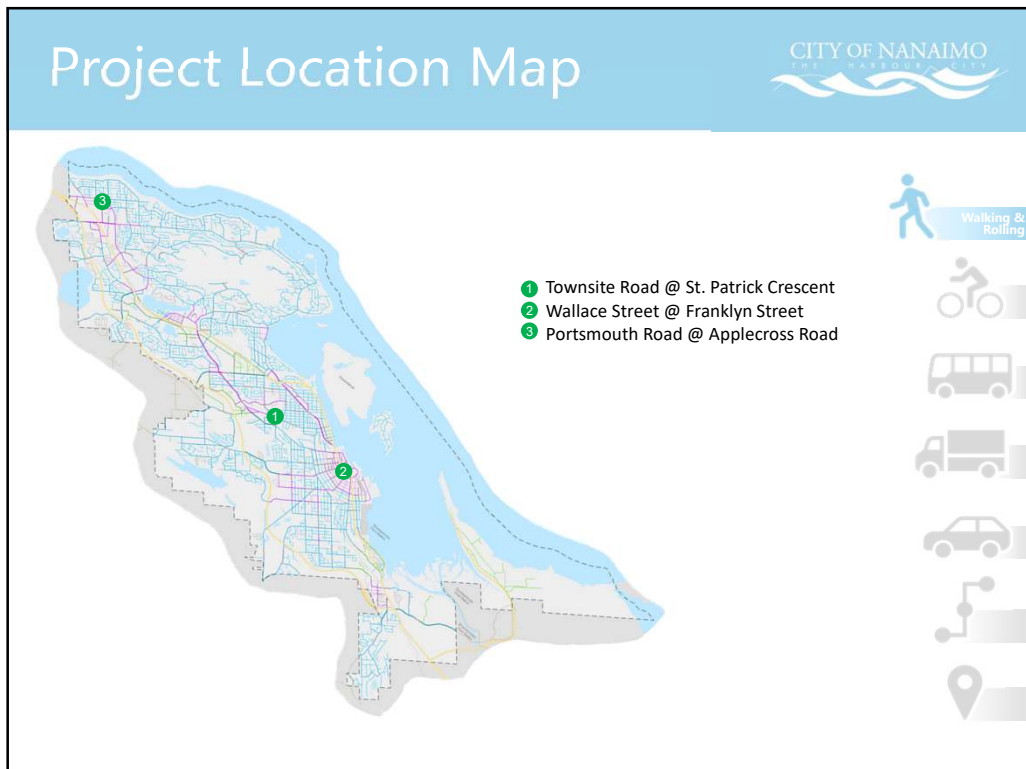


★ = Project Location

Note: This map mostly shows the locations of crosswalk and sidewalk upgrade projects. It does not show the 11 pedestrian signals and 20 transit stops that received accessibility upgrades with pedestrian unallocated funding.



1



2

1 Townsite Rd @ St. Patrick Cres



View looking west down Townsite Road.



3

1 Townsite Rd @ St. Patrick Cres



Score
50

Recommended Treatment
Raised crosswalk

Cost Estimate
\$100,000



4

2

Wallace St @ Franklyn St

Score

48

Recommended Treatment

New Raised crosswalk

Cost Estimate

\$100,000

Walking & Rolling

General location of proposed raised crosswalk

5

2

Wallace St @ Franklyn St

Walking & Rolling

View looking south down Wallace St.

General location of proposed raised crosswalk

Existing crosswalk location

6

3

Portsmouth Rd @ Applecross Rd

CITY OF NANAIMO

THE HARBOUR CITY

Score

48

Recommended Treatment

Raised crosswalk

Cost Estimate

\$100,000

Walking & Rolling

7

3

Portsmouth Rd @ Applecross Rd

CITY OF NANAIMO

THE HARBOUR CITY

View looking north up Applecross Road.

Walking & Rolling

8

Questions?

