



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee **DATE:** December 21, 1999
FROM: Gordon Chan, P. Eng. **FILE:** 6450-01
 Manager, Transportation
**RE: TRAFFIC CALMING ON RIVER DRIVE (NO. 4 ROAD TO SHELL ROAD) -
 RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the traffic calming measures proposed for River Drive (No. 4 Road to Shell Road), as recommended in the attached report from the Manager of Transportation, be endorsed for implementation as part the proposed Year 2000 Major Capital Works Program.
2. That staff be directed to monitor the effectiveness of the proposed traffic calming measures on River Drive for one year and report back to Council on the result of the monitoring program.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
 Manager, Transportation

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Engineering	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
Budget	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

At the November 3, 1999 Public Works and Transportation Committee meeting, staff presented a report outlining various traffic calming measures to address the truck-related concerns in the section of River Drive between No. 4 Road and Shell Road. Council subsequently endorsed the recommended traffic calming measures in principle on November 8, 1999. At the same meeting, staff were further directed to undertake the following activities:

- *Consult with residents of River Drive (between No. 4 Road and Shell Road) about implementing traffic calming measures on this stretch of River Drive.*
- *Continue to work with the RCMP and the Speed Watch Program coordinator to ensure regular speed enforcement in the area.*
- *Report back to Council on the outcome of the consultation with area residents for final endorsement of the proposed traffic calming measures in order that these measures can be implemented as part of the 1999 Major Capital Works Program.*

This report summarizes the feedback from area residents and seeks Council's approval to proceed with the implementation of this project.

ANALYSIS

1. Public Consultation Process

Staff have completed the consultation with area residents regarding the application of various traffic calming measures to address concerns related to truck speeding and other traffic safety issues on this section of River Drive. On November 22, 1999 letters were sent to all residents of River Drive between No. 4 Road and Shell Road inviting comments on the proposed medians and other traffic control measures. Attachment 1 contains a copy of this letter and the accompanying questionnaire.

Of the 43 letters sent out, there were 19 replies (44%). All 19 respondents supported the proposed traffic calming measures. Some of the respondents also identified possible concerns with various traffic control applications and made suggestions on additional measures to deal with the truck issue in the area. The various suggestions put forth by residents have been considered in the recommended design. The following is a summary of the key issues identified by residents:

- Maintain left-turn access;
- Place landscaping along the south-side of the road as a buffer for pedestrians;
- Restrict truck activities;
- Use more raised medians;
- Introduce speed bumps;
- Implement additional street lighting; and
- Build a sidewalk on the north side.

The comments of RCMP, Fire and Rescue, Land Use, and Engineering departments have also been incorporated in the recommended design.

2. Recommended Traffic Calming Measures

The revised design of traffic calming measures for River Drive (No. 4 Road to Shell Road) is illustrated in Attachments 2. The key features of the various traffic calming measures to address concerns related to truck speeding and other traffic safety issues are described below:

- Raised Centre Medians - Five 0.9 metre (3 feet) wide raised centre medians at selected locations will be constructed to narrow the pavement width to 3 metres in each direction to discourage speeding by trucks.
- Landscaping - Landscaping in the raised medians and along the south boulevard adjacent to each median will be placed to emphasize the narrower pavement width. Roadside concrete barriers will be placed along the north side of the road adjacent to the medians.
- Pavement Markings – Special pavement markings will be used to reinforce the 30 km/hr speed restriction.
- Signs and Raised Pavement Markings - Signs indicating “pavement narrows” and “obstruction ahead” and reflective raised pavement markings will be installed to raise the awareness of drivers about the presence of the raised medians.

The design addresses the concerns and suggestions identified by area residents as follows:

- Maintaining Left-Turn Access - The proposed medians have been designed to ensure that all directional access to existing driveways will be retained.
- Placing Landscaping along South-Side of the Road as Buffer for Pedestrians - Additional landscaping on the south side of the road (along the section of River Drive containing the medians) has been incorporated in the revised design.
- Restricting Truck Activities - The feasibility of restricting truck traffic in this section of River Drive will be considered as part of the Garden City Extension Project.
- Using More Raised Medians - The number of raised median sections has been increased to five locations.
- Introducing Speed Bumps - Experience gained elsewhere in the industry has shown that speed bumps cause increased levels of noise and vibration. These devices also compromise Fire and Rescue response time. For these reasons, speed bumps are not recommended for River Drive.
- Implementing Additional Street Lighting - Staff will initiate discussions with the Public Works Department regarding the feasibility of implementing additional street lights in this stretch of River Drive.
- Building a Sidewalk on the North Side - This sidewalk will be included as part of future redevelopment of the north side of River Drive.

3. Further Actions

Further actions that will be taken by staff to address the various truck-related issues along this section of River Drive include:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of the recommended traffic calming measures for one year and advising Council of the outcome of the monitoring program; and
- Pursuing the implementation of the Garden City Extension Project as part of the Five-Year Capital Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of the traffic calming project for River Drive between No. 4 Road and Shell Road is estimated at \$145,000. The funding for this project is available from reallocation of the 1999 Minor Capital Program, the 1998 Bike Lane Program, and the 1996 Traffic Signal Program. Council is asked to endorse this project for implementation as part of the proposed Year 2000 Major Capital Works Program.

CONCLUSION

After consulting with area residents, staff are recommending that the various traffic calming measures presented in this report for River Drive (No. 4 Road to Shell Road) be implemented subject to the approval by Council of the proposed Year 2000 Major Capital Works Program. The concerns and suggestions submitted by area residents have been incorporated in the revised design.

Further actions proposed to be taken by staff include monitoring the effectiveness of the various traffic calming and traffic control measures for one year and reporting back to Council on the result of the monitoring exercise. Staff will continue to pursue the implementation of the Garden City Extension Project as part of the Five-Year Major Capital Works Program.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Transportation Engineer

Tegan Smith, M.C.P.
Transportation Planning Analyst

TS:lce

November 22, 1999

File: 6450-01

To all Residents on River Drive between No. 4 Road and Shell Road:

Re: Proposed Traffic Calming Measures on River Drive (No. 4 Road to Shell Road)

Since November, 1998, City staff have been working with area residents to identify feasible measures to address your concerns about noise and vibration related to truck speeding on River Drive between No. 4 Road and Shell Road. After consultation with both adjacent businesses and a number of residents on River Drive, the City is proposing that a series of traffic calming measures be implemented to address the truck speeding issue.

At the November 8, 1999 meeting, Richmond Council adopted a staff recommendation to consult area residents about the proposed traffic calming measures on River Drive. This letter describes the proposed measures and requests your comments on this proposal.

Features of River Drive Traffic Calming Project (Please see centre fold-out page)

The features of the proposed traffic calming project are as follows:

- Raised Centre Medians - Three 0.9 metre (3 feet) wide raised centre medians are proposed to be constructed to narrow the pavement width to 3 metres in each direction to discourage speeding by trucks.
- Landscaping - Landscaping in the raised medians and along the south boulevard adjacent to each median is proposed to be placed to emphasize the narrower pavement width. The north side of the road will be delineated with roadside concrete barriers.
- Pavement Markings – Special pavement markings are proposed to be used to reinforce the 30 km/hr speed restriction.
- Signs and Raised Pavement Markings - Signs indicating “pavement narrows” and “obstruction ahead” and reflective raised pavement markings are proposed to be installed to raise driver awareness of the presence of raised medians.

Existing adjacent properties will not be affected. That is, no additional road right-of-way will be required for the City to complete these improvements.

A sketch showing the proposed concept is illustrated on the centre fold-out page of this letter.

Your Comments

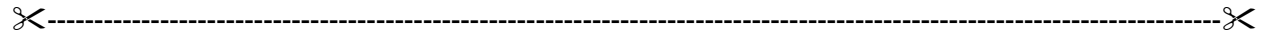
We welcome your feedback on the proposed traffic calming project for River Drive (No. 4 Road to Shell Road). Please fill out the short questionnaire below and return it by **Friday, December 10, 1999** to the City of Richmond in the postage paid, addressed envelope enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Tegan Smith, Transportation Planning Analyst, at 276-4035. You may also fax in your comments at 276-4177 or email at tsmith@city.richmond.bc.ca.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours truly,

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Senior Transportation Engineer



Questionnaire on Traffic Calming Measures for River Drive (No. 4 Road to Shell Road)

Features that I like about this project:

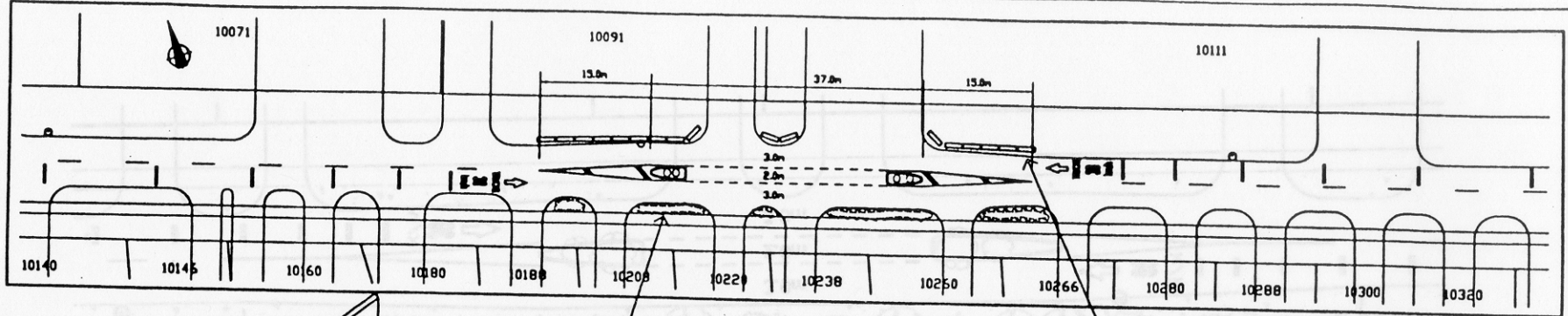
Features that I feel could be improved:

Other Comments:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

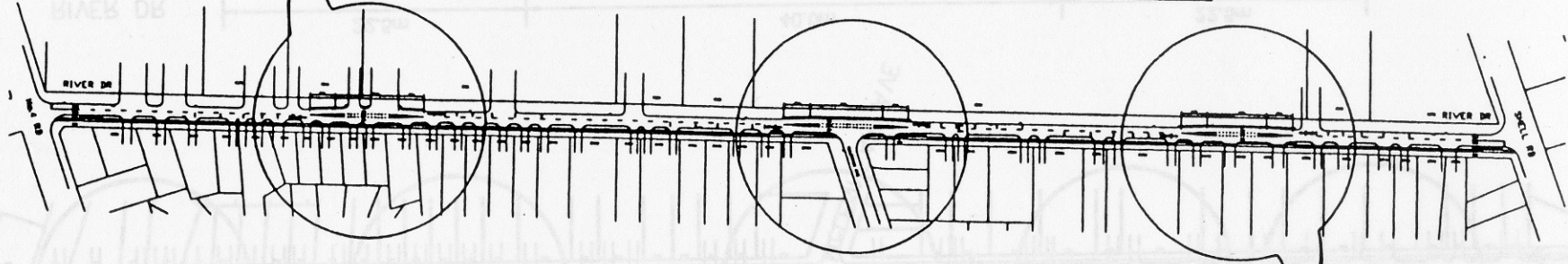
Address: _____

Transportation Department
City of Richmond
November, 1999



ROADSIDE LANDSCAPING
ON SOUTH SIDE

ROADSIDE BARRIERS
ON NORTH SIDE



NEW CENTRE MEDIANS
WITH LANDSCAPING

PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES
RIVER DRIVE
No. 4 ROAD TO SHELL ROAD

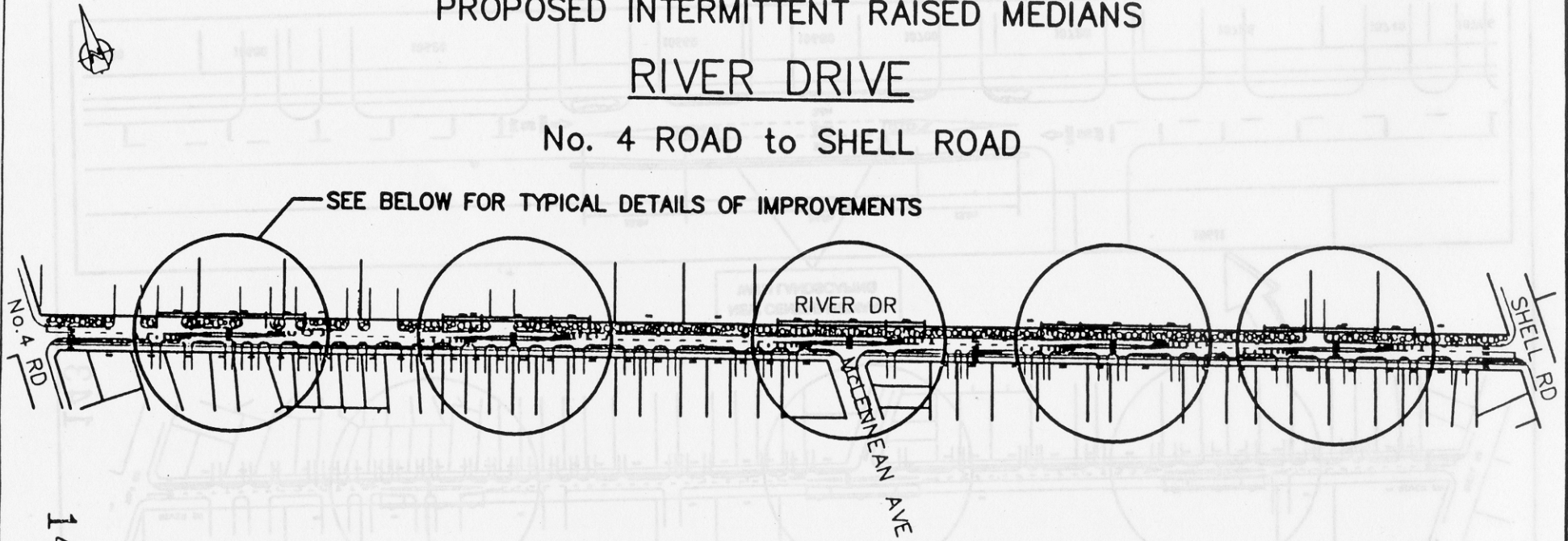
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NO. 4 ROAD TO SHELL ROAD
RIVER DRIVE

PROPOSED INTERMITTENT RAISED MEDIANS RIVER DRIVE

No. 4 ROAD to SHELL ROAD

SEE BELOW FOR TYPICAL DETAILS OF IMPROVEMENTS



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