



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee **DATE:** January 19, 2001
FROM: Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation **FILE:** 6450-09
RE: **HEATHER STREET AREA - PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY
ENHANCEMENTS**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the following traffic and pedestrian safety measures as described in the attached report:
 - (a) installation of a traffic circle at the intersection of Heather Street and Dayton Avenue at an estimated cost of \$5,400;
 - (b) construction of a pedestrian walkway with extruded curb on the west side of Heather Street between Dixon Avenue and Dolphin Avenue at an estimated cost of \$26,300; and
 - (c) minor modifications to the Dixon Avenue driveway to the Garden City Shopping Centre to improve sightlines.
2. That staff consult with Heather Street and Dayton Avenue residents on the proposed traffic calming measure and report back to Council on the results of the consultations.
3. That subject to final Council approval upon the reporting back on the residents' feedback, the proposed traffic and pedestrian safety improvements be funded from the 2001 Minor Capital Program for Traffic Calming Improvements (subject to the approval of Council of the overall 2001 Minor Capital Budget).

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

At the December 6, 2000 meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, a delegation of a number of Heather Street residents expressed their concerns regarding: traffic movements on Heather Street; the need for improved pedestrian facilities; and the Dixon Avenue access to the Garden City Shopping Centre. Staff were directed by the Committee to review these concerns.

This report presents the results of staff's review of the Dixon Avenue driveway to the Garden City Shopping Centre and pedestrian and traffic conditions on Heather Street. A range of proposed pedestrian and traffic safety improvements for the area are included in the report.

ANALYSIS

1. Traffic Calming on Heather Street

Heather Street is classified as a collector street, which has a speed limit of 50 km/h. Traffic surveys conducted in November, 2000 along Heather Street indicate that 85 percent of the vehicles were travelling at a speed of 53 km/h or lower (the 85th percentile is typically used in the industry for the measurement of the prevailing speed of a particular roadway).

A traffic circle at the intersection of Heather Street and Dayton Avenue is proposed to address residents' concerns with traffic speeds on Heather Street. The Heather Street and Dayton Avenue intersection is the preferred location (Attachment 1) as it is the mid-point of Heather Street between Francis Road and Blundell Road. Installation of the traffic circle, at an estimated cost of \$5,400, is proposed as part of the 2001 Capital Program.

Staff also propose to undertake public consultation on this traffic calming option via a mail-back survey to be sent to Heather Street residents between Blundell Road and Francis Road and Dayton Avenue residents between Garden City Road and Ash Street. The survey will invite comments and feedback on the proposal. A sample survey form is shown in Attachment 2.

2. Sidewalk / Walkway on Heather Street

Existing pedestrian amenities on Heather Street are located on the west side and consist of:

- a sidewalk with curb and gutter between Blundell Road and Dixon Avenue;
- a walkway between Dixon Avenue and Dayton Avenue that is delineated from the roadway by a painted white line; and
- a sidewalk from Dolphin Avenue to the open ditch to the south, which is about one-half of the distance between Dolphin Avenue and Francis Road.

The proposed pedestrian amenity enhancement includes:

- the addition of an extruded curb inside the painted white line along the west side of Heather Street between Dixon Avenue and Dayton Avenue; and
- the extension of the walkway to the section of Heather Street between Dayton Avenue and Dolphin Avenue, complete with extruded curb and painted white line.

Extension of the existing sidewalk south of Dolphin Avenue to Francis Road is currently not feasible due to the open ditch and the narrow road width. Construction of the proposed pedestrian walkway, estimated at \$26,300, is recommended as part of the 2001 Capital Program.

3. Dixon Avenue Access to Garden City Shopping Centre

The Dixon Avenue access to the Garden City Shopping Centre was completed in Autumn, 2000 to address the request by area residents for improved access to the centre. The construction of a cul-de-sac on Heather Street between Blundell Road and Dixon Avenue in Spring, 2000 prevented access to the centre from Heather Street for motorists approaching from the south. The Dixon Avenue driveway for the centre maintains local resident access to this neighbourhood shopping facility. Without the new driveway, local residents would be forced to travel on the adjacent arterial roads (i.e., Garden City Road and Blundell Road) to access the centre.

Some of the area residents are concerned with the visibility of pedestrians by motorists exiting the centre via the Dixon Avenue driveway. A cement brick garbage enclosure as well as a low hedge and fence, both located near the west side of the driveway, potentially impede the visibility of pedestrians on the sidewalk. To address these concerns, the shopping centre manager has indicated his willingness to undertake and fund the following proposed traffic safety measures: trimming the hedge, lowering the height of the fence and garbage enclosure and painting a stop bar at the exit.

4. Local Improvement Program

At the December 6, 2000 meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, some area residents expressed a desire for an upgrade of Heather Street to full urban standard. As this request is beyond the scope of the identified traffic safety requirements, staff propose to provide information on the Local Improvement Project (LIP) process to area residents to advise them of the purpose and procedures of the LIP program. This information can be included as part of the public consultation on the proposed traffic circle.

5. Consultation with Residents' Representative

Staff have reviewed the pedestrian and traffic safety proposals with Ms. Kathy Stephens, the Heather Street resident who organized the petition, and she has given her support for the traffic safety improvements. Staff now propose to undertake a broader public consultation on the traffic calming proposal via a mail-back survey letter to be sent to Heather Street and Dayton Avenue residents and report back to Council on the results of the consultation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to construct a pedestrian walkway with an extruded curb on Heather Street between Dixon Avenue and Dolphin Avenue is estimated at \$26,300. Installation cost of a traffic circle at the Heather Street and Dayton Avenue intersection is estimated at \$5,400. The funding source for both of these improvements is the 2001 Minor Capital Program for Traffic Calming Improvements (subject to the approval of Council of the overall 2001 Minor Capital Budget).

The traffic safety improvements proposed for the Dixon Avenue access to the Garden City Shopping Centre can be implemented at no cost to the City as the property owner has agreed to undertake and fund the work.

CONCLUSION

Staff have reviewed pedestrian and traffic conditions at the Dixon Avenue access to the Garden City Shopping Centre and along Heather Street. This review was conducted in response to a petition received by the City from Heather Street residents that cited traffic safety concerns regarding the Dixon Avenue access and vehicle speeds on Heather Street. A number of traffic safety measures are proposed to address these concerns.

The addition of an extruded curb to the existing pedestrian walkway on Heather Street between Dixon Avenue and Dayton Avenue plus the extension of the walkway, complete with extruded curb and painted white line, to the section of Heather Street between Dayton Avenue and Dolphin Avenue is proposed to enhance pedestrian safety. Installation of a traffic circle at the Heather Street and Dayton Avenue intersection is also proposed as a traffic calming measure. The total cost of these pedestrian and traffic safety improvements is estimated at \$31,700. Staff propose to undertake public consultation on the traffic calming proposal via a mail-back survey letter to be sent to Heather Street and Dayton Avenue residents and report back to Council on the results of the consultation.

A hedge, fencing and cement brick garbage enclosure that potentially impede exiting motorists' view of pedestrians on the sidewalk at the Dixon Avenue access will be lowered to improve pedestrian visibility. A stop bar will also be painted at the exit. The property manager of the shopping centre has agreed to undertake and fund these improvements.



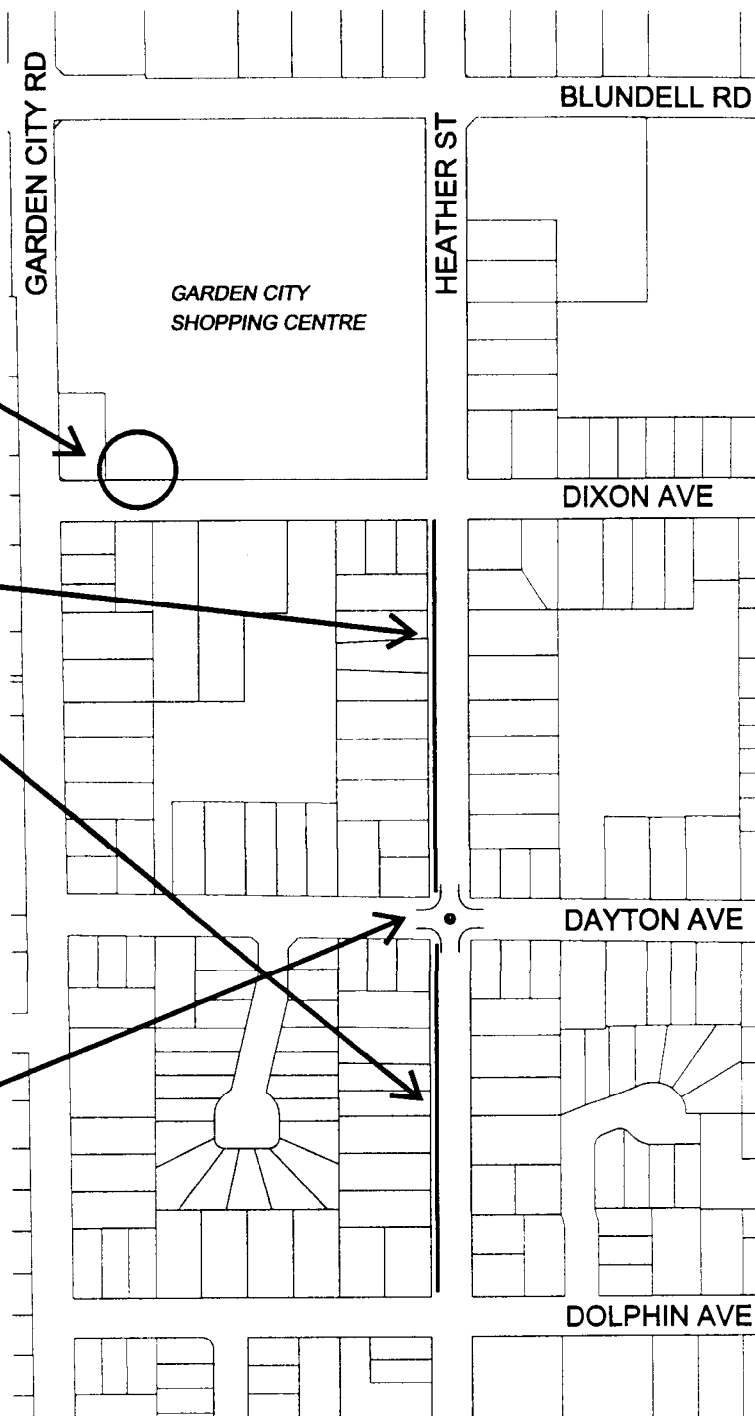
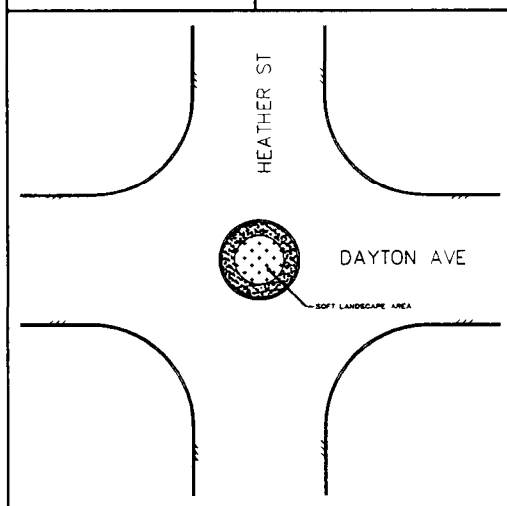
Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner I



Dixon Avenue Driveway
Improvements to
sightlines for
exiting vehicles

Heather Street
Extruded curb
and pedestrian
walkway on
west side

Proposed Traffic
Circle



HEATHER STREET AREA PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

Survey of Heather Street and Dayton Avenue Residents
Proposed Traffic Circle at Heather Street and Dayton Avenue

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

☐ I support the installation of a traffic circle at Heather Street and Dayton Avenue.

☐ I do not support the installation of a traffic circle at Heather Street and Dayton Avenue.

Comments on proposed traffic calming measure: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this questionnaire in the postage paid, addressed envelope provided and post by **Friday, February 23, 2001**.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey.

Transportation Department
Urban Development Division
City of Richmond