



**City of Richmond**

**Report to Committee**

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee  
**From:** Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning  
**Re:** **THE WALKABLE RICHMOND ACCORD**

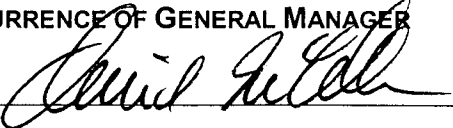
To PRCS - Apr 29, 2003  
**Date:** April 17, 2003  
**File:** 4050-08

**Staff Recommendation**

1. The Walkable Richmond Accord be approved (**Attachment 2**).
2. The Walkable Richmond Accord be referred to the Richmond School District and Richmond Health Services Society for approval and signature, and then the Accord be referred to the Mayor and City Clerk for signature.
3. The City work with the Richmond School District and Richmond Health Services to preserve, develop and improve Richmond's pedestrian environment for residents of all ages and abilities by creating a more liveable and safe walking environment in Richmond.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Roads & Dykes .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Design, Construction & Programs ..	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation & Cultural Services .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

In the Fall of 2001, the Richmond Seniors Advisory Council hosted a "Slip, Trips & Falls" Forum focusing on the increase in seniors falls in outdoor places, and ways to reduce the risk of outdoor hazards.

One of the ideas that resulted out this Forum was the notion that Richmond should promote itself as a walking community, and work towards that goal by having the City, Richmond School Board and Richmond Health Services sign "The Walkable Richmond Accord" a voluntary, mutually beneficial agreement in order to achieve a safer and more walkable City.

Two of the major focus areas outlined in the City Council's 2002-2005 term priorities are Transportation and Community Mobility, and Community Safety.

The goals for these priorities are:

*To make significant progress towards an integrated and environmentally friendly system of community mobility, that connects all parts of the island, and addresses core area transportation issues.*

*To increase community safety, and people's perception of community safety, through a strategy that brings community safety resources "closer to the people", and that balances prevention, education and enforcement initiatives.*

A key concept within these goal is to develop a walkable City.

### Findings Of Fact

#### Slips, Trips & Falls Working Group

Out of the Slips, Trips & Falls Forum, a working group was developed involving representatives from the Richmond Seniors Advisory Council, Richmond School District, Richmond Health Services, and the City.

Working Group activities to date include:

- ❑ *Slips, Trips & Falls Information Brochure* to present information on fall facts, where outdoor falls occur, and examples of outdoor hazards (**Attachment 1**). This brochure has been circulated to the public via the City's facilities and community centres, health and wellness forums, and injury prevention conferences.
- ❑ *City Works Yard 24 hour telephone number* is being advertised to the public to report possible outdoor hazards on public streets, sidewalks and pathways. All reports are checked by City staff within 48 hours of being received, and the outcome reported back to the caller.
- ❑ *Information exchange on the various walking programs and activities* underway in the community that promote safe walking, personal health and recreation.

### Importance of Walking

It is recognized that:

- Walkability is the cornerstone and key to an urban area's efficient ground transportation. Every trip begins and ends with walking.
- Walking promotes wellness and good health.
- Walking remains the cheapest form of transport for all people, and the construction of a walkable community provides the most affordable transportation system any community can plan, design, construct and maintain.
- Walkable communities put urban environments back on a scale for sustainability of resources (both natural and economic) and lead to more social interaction, physical fitness and diminished crime and other social problems.
- Walkable communities are more liveable communities and lead to whole, happy, healthy lives for the people who live in them.

### Richmond as a Walkable Place

Because Richmond has:

- a natural flat terrain, making it easy to walk from place to place,
- contains many historical places and natural settings to enjoy,
- includes a variety of urban activities and places, and
- has excellent sidewalks and trails,

the City is already attracting those who live here and those who visit to walk. Therefore, it is natural for Richmond to promote itself as a walkable, liveable community.

### The Walkable Richmond Accord

The Walkable Richmond Accord (**Attachment 2**) provides an overall City policy that will encourage and promote the ideals for achieving a safer and more walkable City. Because the Richmond School District and Richmond Health Services have mutual and similar interest, the signing a volunteer Walkable Richmond Accord is not only a strategic approach, but recognizes that the importance of the pedestrian environment is a shared responsibility.

The Richmond School District and the Richmond Health Services support this initiative.

### Examples of Walkable Richmond Actions

**Attachment 3** presents examples of the many ways that the public agencies signing this document can promote healthy and safe walking in Richmond.

### **Financial Impact**

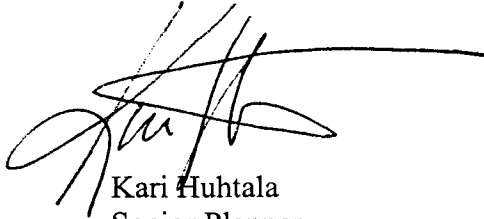
None. All activities to promote this Accord will come about as part of existing City projects, initiatives and programs that promote safe walking.

April 17, 2003

- 4 -

### **Conclusion**

The Accord recognizes importance of walking, and promotes the benefit of expanding the role of safe pedestrian travel in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kari Huhtala', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

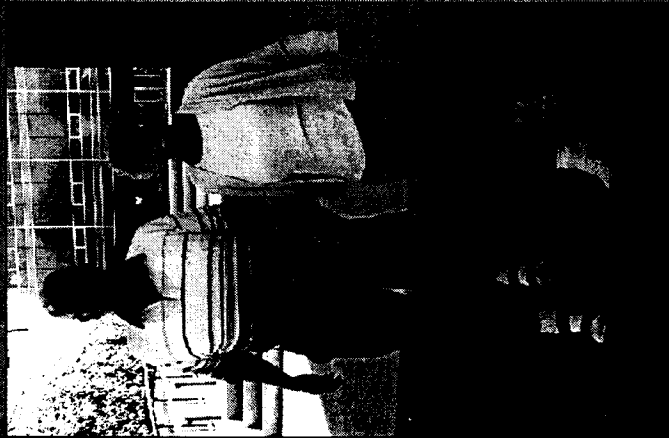
Kari Huhtala  
Senior Planner  
(4188)

KEH:cas

For more information on how to reduce your personal risk of falling.

- Talk to your family doctor.
  - Call Richmond Health Services for a copy of *The First Step: Fall Prevention Starts With You.* (604) 233-3134.
  - Contact your local Community or Seniors Centre to find out about wellness programs, exercise, fitness and balance activities.
- 207
- **Minoru Place Seniors Centre**  
604-718-8450
  - **Cambie**  
604-233-8399
  - **South Arm**  
604-718-8060
  - **Steveston**  
604-718-8080
  - **Thompson**  
604-718-8422
  - **West Richmond**  
604-718-8400
  - **Richmond Fitness Association**  
604-718-8004

Working together to promote the health of seniors in our city.



### Falls Prevention Partnership

- City of Richmond,
- Minoru Seniors Society,
- Richmond Health Services,
- Richmond Seniors Advisory Council

**RICHMOND**  
*Island City By Nature*

# Slips & Falls

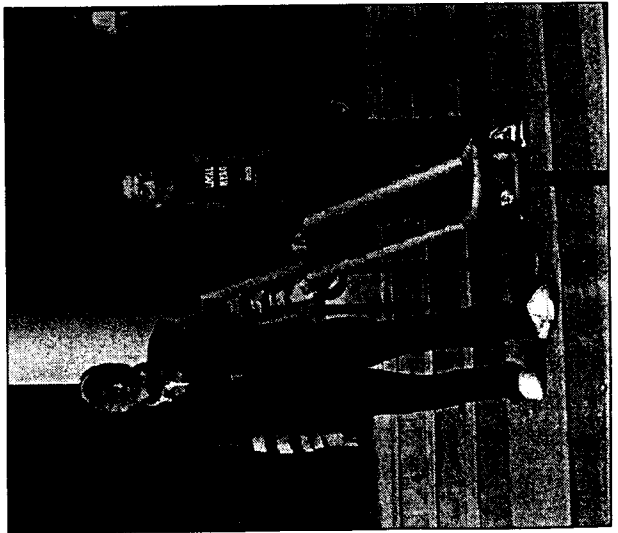


*Promoting Pedestrian Safety in Our City by Working Together to Reduce Outdoor Hazards*

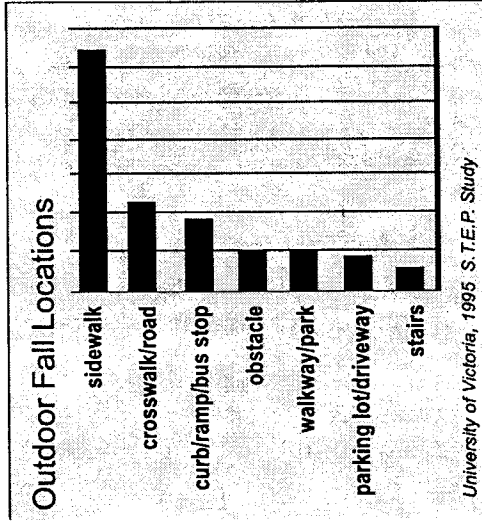
## Facts About Slips, Trips & Falls.

- 1 in 3 seniors will suffer a serious fall this year.
- People fall because of personal health, home hazards and outdoor hazards.
- Falls can be prevented.
- Seniors can take action to help themselves and to make their home safer.

Seniors and their families can help reduce the risk of outdoor hazards.



## Where do outdoor falls happen?



## Examples of outdoor hazards.

- Uneven sidewalks & paths
- Debris and obstacles such as tree roots, signs, trash cans, planters, benches, wet leaves.
- Low hanging branches
- Uneven curb ramps.
- Lack of stair handrails.
- Poor lighting
- Snow, ice & slippery sidewalks.

## How to report outdoor hazards on City property.

- Minoru Place Seniors Activity Centre@ 604-718-8450
- City Works Yard @ 604- 270-8721. (24 hours/day)

The City does not have the resources to inspect sidewalks regularly and therefore relies on the public to report uneven surfaces.

All reports will be checked within 48 hours of being received.



**The “Walkable Richmond” Accord**  
*Among*  
*The City of Richmond,*  
*Richmond School District & Richmond Health Services*

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Walkable Richmond Accord is to establish a voluntary, mutually beneficial agreement among the City of Richmond, Richmond School District No. 38 and Richmond Health Services in order to achieve a safer and more walkable City.

**PRINCIPLES**

The Parties agree to recognize the following principles in implementing this Accord:

- Partnerships
- Collaboration
- Co-operation
- Flexibility
- Cost-effectiveness.

**GOAL**

The Accord seeks to preserve, develop and improve Richmond’s pedestrian environment for residents of all ages and abilities by creating a more livable and safer walking environment in Richmond by improving:

- The walkability of the City
- The safety of communities and pedestrians
- Personal health and recreation, and
- Livable neighbourhoods

**IMPORTANCE OF WALKING**

As the City, School District, and Richmond Health Services have a profound effect and mutual interest on the people who live, work and play in Richmond, it is in their best interest to combine their efforts to achieve a walkable community.

- Every outing begins and ends with walking.
- Walking promotes wellness and good health.
- Walking remains the cheapest form of transport for all people.
- A walkable community provides the most affordable transportation system that any community can plan, design, construct and maintain.
- Walking makes urban environments more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable.
- Walking improves physical fitness.
- Walkable streets provides an increased sense of security for residents.

- Walking increases social interaction and promotes neighbourhood vitality.
- Walking is an inter-generational activity.

### **WALKABLE RICHMOND IDEALS**

Therefore, the Parties hereto agree to work towards meeting the following ideals:

- **Working Together:** Communicate and consult with each other and the public regarding initiatives that promote and encourage safe walking in the City.
- **Partnership:** Encourage institutions, community groups and businesses to participate in promoting and achieving a more walkable city.
- **Ease of Walking:** Ideally, create neighbourhoods, that are within easy walking distance of one another, and in which daily needs are met, including housing, jobs, exercise, daily needs, schools, and other activities.
- **Accessibility:** Locate as many activities as possible within easy walking distance of transit stops.
- **Transit Supportive Community:** Work towards community-based transit serving services.
- **Community Focus:** Focus commercial, civic, cultural, educational and recreational uses to service community needs.
- **Safe Public Places:** Design people places to encourage the awareness, safety and presence of people at all hours of the day and night.
- **Walkable Network:** Plan streets, pedestrian paths, trails and bike routes that contribute to a system of fully-connected and interesting routes to all destinations.
- **Participatory Opportunities:** Promote educational, recreational and health programs on the benefits of safe walking.
- **Community Awareness & Benefits:** Raise public understanding and awareness of the healthy effects of walking on people, the environment, and the community.
- **Resource Support:** Provide sufficient resources for promoting walking, as well as ongoing maintenance of walking routes.

### **MEASURING WALKABILITY**

The walkable community initiative will be measured in a variety of ways (e.g. through an annual walkers count at randomly selected locations in the City). The results will be made publicly available. These measures will gauge the public's interest, opportunity and responsiveness to walking as well the steps made to promote walking.

As well, a listing of events and programs that support walking will be published annually.



**ADMINISTRATION**

**1. Effective Date**

This Accord shall be effective by \_\_\_\_\_, 2003 (or earliest approval date).

**2. Monitoring**

The Parties will report progress annually to their respective board and councils.

**3. Review Period**

This Accord shall be formally reviewed at least every five years.

**4. Amendments**

This Accord may be amended, at any time, by the written agreement of all Parties.

**5. Termination/Withdrawal**

A Party may terminate/withdraw from this Accord, by giving to the other Parties:

- at least 3 months written notice, and
- the opportunity to discuss the matter with the other Parties.

**6. Approval**

The Parties hereby approve of the Accord:

- a. Richmond School Board No. 38
- b. Richmond Health Services
- c. City of Richmond.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003

<b>Richmond School Board No 38</b>	
_____	_____
Chair, Richmond School District 38	Secretary./ Treasurer, Richmond School District 38
<b>Richmond Health Services</b>	
_____	_____
Chair, Richmond Health Services	CAO, Richmond Health Services
<b>City of Richmond</b>	
_____	_____
Mayor, City of Richmond	City Clerk, City of Richmond

## EXAMPLES OF WALKABLE RICHMOND ACTIONS

### City

- ❑ Mapping neighbourhood walking routes and paths (Richmond walk brochure).
- ❑ Walking, wellness and falls prevention clinics.
- ❑ City pedestrian/trails plan.
- ❑ Annual walk week.
- ❑ Public reporting of unsafe walking places.
- ❑ Designate City pedestrian routes.
- ❑ Community police stations in neighbourhoods.
- ❑ Security escort service program to parking lots or garages.
- ❑ Safer streets program.
- ❑ Block Watch Program.
- ❑ Neighbourhood walkability checklist for public comment.
- ❑ Sponsorship of walking related events.
- ❑ Walkable environment standards in high volume pedestrian places (lighting, access, safety and security).
- ❑ Media promotion on the benefits of walking.
- ❑ Work with developers to optimize pedestrian accessibility and reduce barriers.
- ❑ Promote informal community walk groups and clubs.

### School District

- ❑ Way To Go! School Program (best routes to school, IWALK - International Walk to School Day, walking school buses, walking event days).
- ❑ District Parent Association Traffic Safety Awareness Week.
- ❑ Designs to separate pedestrians and cars on school grounds.
- ❑ Work with parents and students to enhance pedestrian safety.
- ❑ ICBC sponsorship for curriculum resources for safe pedestrian education.
- ❑ Annual Walk Week.

### Health Services

- ❑ Injury prevention programs.
- ❑ Public education and awareness promotion on walking and health.
- ❑ Annual walk week.
- ❑ Work with health practitioners on the promotion of walking and injury prevention