



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee

TO PWT - July 18, 2001

DATE: June 15, 2001

FROM: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
A/Manager, Transportation

FILE: 6360-12-01

RE: RIVER ROAD - 22,000-BLOCK – PROPOSED WALKWAY ENHANCEMENT

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the proposed pedestrian walkway enhancement on the south side of the 22,000-block of River Road, as described in the attached report, be approved for implementation at an estimated cost of \$30,000.
2. That the above recommended improvement be funded from the 2001 Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Program (Project No. 40207).

A. H. P. Eng

for Victor Wei, P. Eng.
A/Manager, Transportation

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Engineering.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>David Hill</i>
Roads and Construction Services	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

Over the last few years, concerns have been expressed by a resident of the 22,000-block of River Road about truck traffic, speeding and pedestrian facilities along this section of River Road. Staff have recently met with the resident on-site to review the concerns and observe the existing roadway and traffic conditions. This staff report identifies the recent improvements in traffic safety made in the area to date, presents staff's findings of the site assessment, and recommends further improvements to the roadway shoulder to address the concerns raised by the resident.

ANALYSIS

1. Existing Conditions

River Road is used by local residents, large truck operators and employees accessing industrial properties on the south bank of the North Arm of the Fraser River. Some commuters also use the route to avoid traffic congestion on Highway 91 and Westminster Highway. Maximum speed limits are 50 km/h for cars and 30 km/h for trucks and a 9-ton load limit is in effect on River Road between No. 7 Road and Westminster Highway.

The 22,000-block of River Road has a limited shoulder area for pedestrians; the road edges drop sharply to the Fraser River on the north side and a large ditch on the south side. Photographs of this section of River Road are presented in Attachment 1. Pedestrians must walk on a narrow gravel shoulder to access the Queen Road right-of-way, which has a gravelled walkway that connects to the local shopping area and the Hamilton Community Centre. School children in the area also must walk along River Road to access the walkway to reach Hamilton Elementary School, as the area is not within the school bus route.

2. Actions Taken to Date

Over the past several years, the City has made a number of improvements to address residents' concerns with traffic safety, particularly speeding. The following improvements were made in 1998:

- speed limit signs posted at every cross street;
- imposition of 9-ton load limit on River Road between No. 7 Road and Westminster Highway;
- improved raised and painted road markings;
- additional road signs, including speed limit, load limit and curve warning signs;
- improved street lighting; and
- removal of parking on both sides of River Road from west of the CNR trestle to Westminster Highway.

More recently, the following traffic control measures were implemented subsequent to the meeting between staff and the River Road resident:

- additional speed limit signs posted in the vicinity of the Queen Road right-of-way; and
- request forwarded to Richmond RCMP for increased monitoring and enforcement of the speed and load limits for cars and trucks along this section of River Road.

3. Pedestrian Walkway

To address residents' concerns with pedestrian safety in the 22,000-block of River Road, staff propose the construction of a 1.2-m wide asphalt walkway along the south side of River Road (see Attachment 2). The walkway would be approximately 300-m in length and provide safer pedestrian access to the Queen Road right-of-way for the several residences in the area located on either side of the right-of-way. A walkway 300-m in length is sufficient as residences located to the east of the proposed walkway face Westminster Highway and do not have access to River Road and there are no residences to the immediate west of the proposed walkway. The closest residence is approximately 450-m west and that area is served by the local school bus.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The construction cost of the 300-m long pedestrian walkway is estimated at \$30,000. The proposed funding source for the improvement is the 2001 Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Program (Project No. 40207).

CONCLUSION

Staff have reviewed pedestrian and traffic conditions in the vicinity of the 22,000-block of River Road in response to concerns raised by a resident of the area regarding traffic speeds and the lack of pedestrian facilities. Staff have posted additional speed limit signs in the area and have forwarded a request to Richmond RCMP for increased monitoring and enforcement of the speed and load limits for cars and trucks along River Road. In addition, staff propose the construction of a 1.2-m wide asphalt pedestrian walkway approximately 300-m in length along the south side of River Road in the vicinity of the Queen Road right-of-way at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

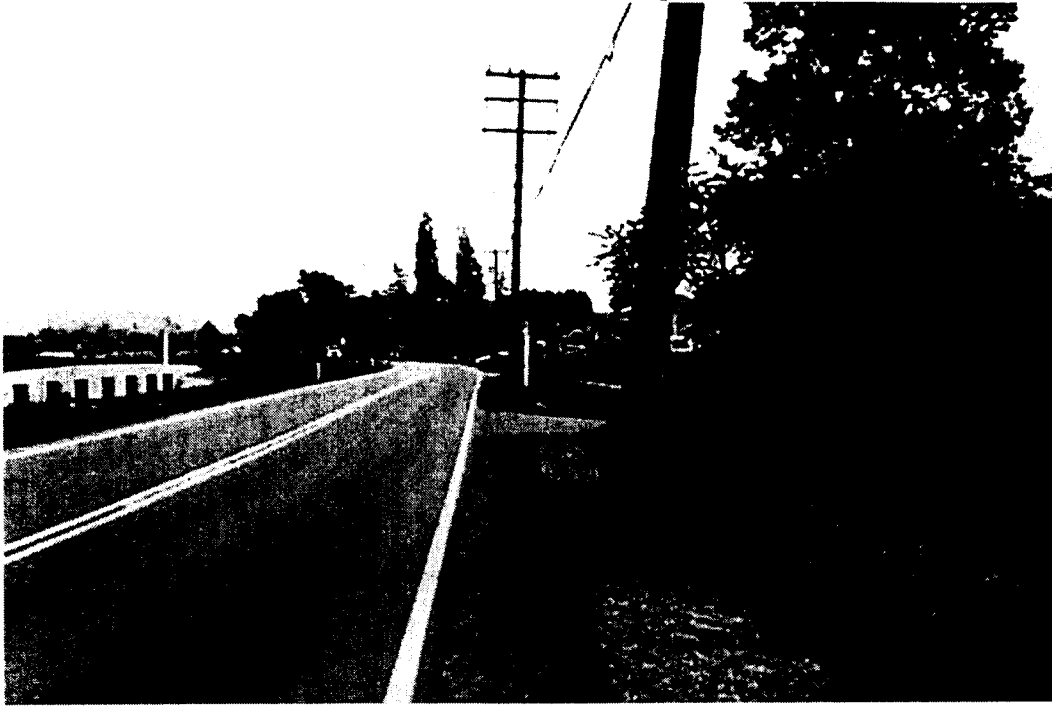


Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner



Doug Newton
Traffic Technician I

JC:DN:Ice



Looking East from Pump Station



Looking West from Pump Station

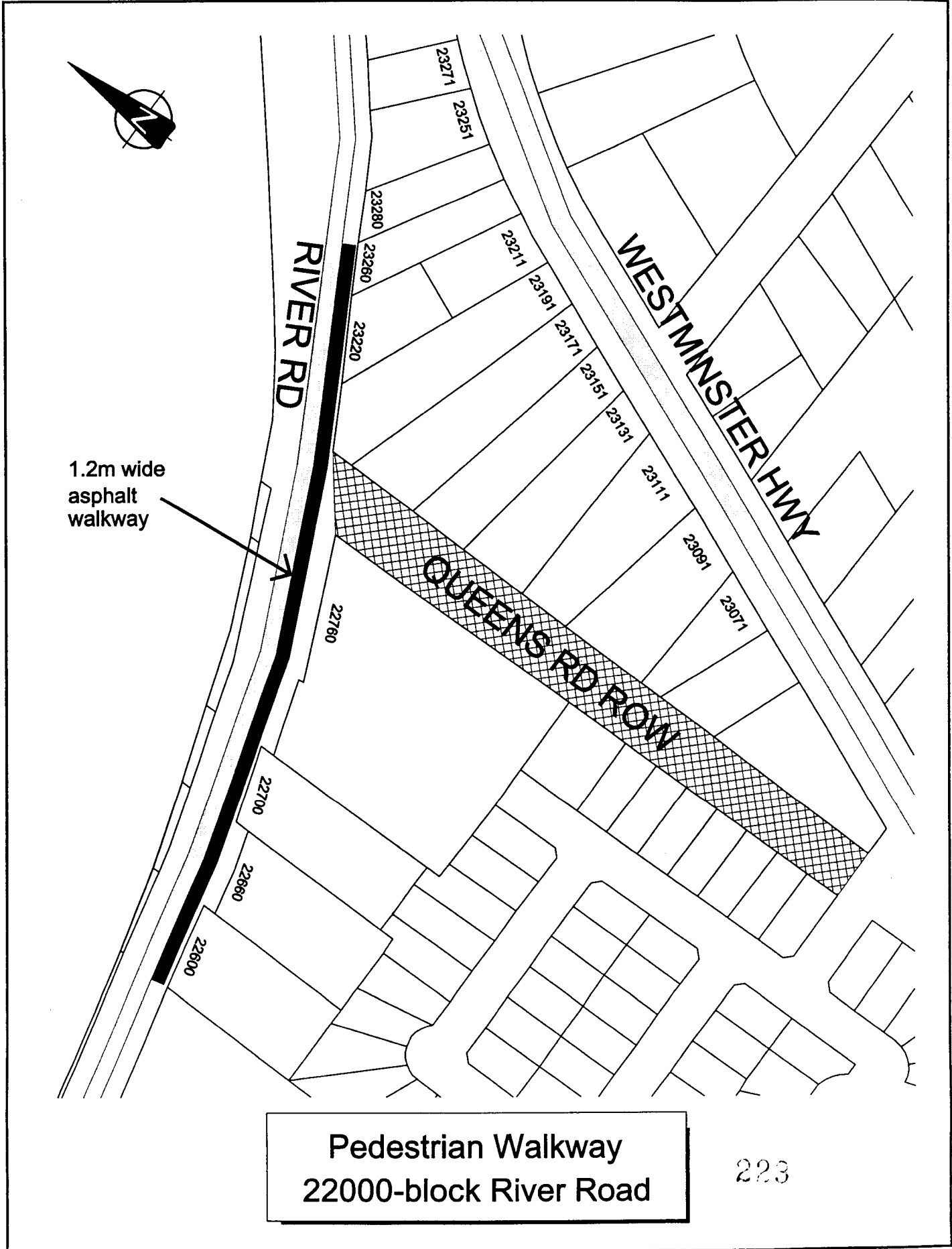
City of
Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road Richmond B.C. V6Y 2C1

TITLE: 22,000 Blk. River Road
Proposed Walkway Location

DESIGN: DN
DRAWN: DN
CHECKED:
ENGINEER:

DWG No. H:\22,000BlkRiverRdAtt.cdr
SCALE: NTS DATE: July 04, 2001
SEC. No. SHT. No. 1/1



**Pedestrian Walkway
22000-block River Road**