



City of Richmond

Report to Committee


To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** May 3, 2011
From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation **File:** 10-6450-15-01/2011-Vol 01
Re: **TRAFFIC BYLAW AMENDMENT – Amendments to Schedule A of Bylaw 5870 to Add Weight Limits to the Delegated Authority of the General Manager, Engineering & Public Works and to Schedule C of Bylaw 5870 to Amend the Speed Limit on Westminster Highway between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road from 60 km/h to 50 km/h**

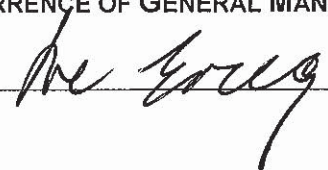
Staff Recommendation

That Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 8730, which:

- establishes a 50 km/h speed limit on Westminster Highway between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road; and
- delegates the authority to order weight limits for vehicles operating on City roads to the General Manager, Engineering & Public Works,

be introduced and given first, second and third reading.


Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation
(604-276-4131)

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|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| ROUTED TO: | CONCURRENCE | CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER | |
| Community Bylaws | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |  | |
| Fire Rescue | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Law | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| R.C.M.P. | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| REVIEWED BY TAG | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | REVIEWED BY CAO | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

Staff Report

Origin

At its November 23, 2009 meeting Council approved a funding contribution by the City to support the implementation of the Nelson Road-Highway 91 Interchange.

Within the report, the Transportation Division recommended that the speed limit on Westminster Highway between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road be reduced to 50 km/h, which would allow Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) buses to stop in the travel lane of Westminster Hwy so that shoulder bus stops could be established. Additionally, it was recommended that a weight limit be established to restrict the movement of large trucks on this segment of Westminster Highway.

As part of that approved report, the following revised traffic regulations on Westminster Highway between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road are planned to be implemented upon the opening of the interchange:

- the establishment of a weight limit restriction; and
- a reduction of the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h.

These two new traffic restrictions would allow the City to address existing traffic safety and mobility concerns of residents and farmers who live along Westminster Highway including:

- diverting heavy truck activity to Highway 91 while facilitating farming activities and allowing for local delivery to farmers; and
- enabling the establishment of new bus stops.

Analysis

1. Current Conditions

Westminster Highway from No. 6 Road to Nelson Road is a rural two lane asphalt roadway with an off-road bikeway on the south side of the road and drainage ditch on the north side. Full time parking regulations are in place to protect the bike lane. The posted speed limit is 60 km/h from No. 4 Road to the Hamilton Interchange with Highway 91. The 410 bus service travels on Westminster Highway during weekday peak periods only and on Highway 91 at all other times.

2. Proposed Speed Reduction & Weight Restriction Benefits

The reduction of the posted speed limit as well as the licensed gross vehicle weight restriction on this segment of Westminster Highway will address the two main concerns that residents have raised over the last few years:

- Traffic Safety: The speed reduction coupled with the licensed gross vehicle weight limit, will prevent large trucks from using Westminster Highway as a through route and would create larger gaps in traffic thereby allowing residents to exit from and enter into their properties easier. Farm equipment could travel between fields much easier as well due to lower traffic speeds and volume. Similarly, any pedestrians, particularly crossing Westminster Highway from possible bus stops, would face less conflicts with truck traffic.

- Bus Stops: The City and Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) have received requests for bus stops on Westminster Hwy over the past several years particularly at No. 7 Road and at Kartner Road. CMBC regulations prevent busses from stopping in a travel lane on a roadway with a speed limit of 60 km/h or higher due to safety concerns from rear-end crashes or reckless passing by drivers. Staff considered pullout bus bays at these two locations but construction costs were estimated at over \$250,000 each due to the large ditches and grade difference between the road and the adjoining property. The reduction of the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h would allow for buses to stop within the travel lane to pick up and drop off customers; thus, bus stops could be installed on the shoulder at these two locations. The installation of the new bus stops is expected to be completed in Fall 2011.

3. Proposed Amendments

This report proposes the following amendments to Traffic Bylaw 5870:


- The amendment of Schedule A is to provide the General Manager, Public Works and Engineering with the authority to establish weight limits on City roads generally. Schedule A currently allows for the General Manager, Public Works and Engineering to establish traffic control devices in support of the Motor Vehicle Act but does not mention weight restrictions. The proposed amendment will add this authority to the General Manager's delegated powers. The General Manager will in turn issue an order to establish a weight limit of 10,000 kg for vehicles traveling on the portion of Westminster Highway between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road. The change from the 9,000 kg weight restriction proposed in the initial report and the 10,000 kg proposed in this report is a result of consultation with various stakeholders and it was determined to be a more appropriate weight restriction.
- The amendment to Schedule C is to reduce the speed limit on Westminster Highway between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road from 60 km/h to 50 km/h.
- The housekeeping amendment to Section 3.1 is to remove an out dated reference to a section of the Motor Vehicle Act which is no longer applies to municipal powers.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost to supply and install the permanent signage for both the weight restriction and the speed reduction as well as any advance warning signage for these changes is \$9,000 to be sourced from Project No. 40271 (2006 Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Program). Any shoulder improvements for the possible bus stop locations, estimated to be \$50,000 and to be funded from the Project No. 41267 (2011 Transit Related Road Infrastructure Program (TRRIP)), are eligible for 50-50 cost-sharing with CMBC.

Conclusion

This report proposes that the appropriate bylaw amendments be put forward to permit the reduction of the speed limit on Westminster Highway between No. 6 Road and Nelson Road from 60 km/h to 50 km/h and the establishment of a weight limit of 10,000 kg. These measures would be key components in returning the primary use of this road segment to rural use as well as improving traffic safety and mobility for local users. The implementation of the speed reduction and weight limit would be planned to coincide with the opening of the Nelson Road-Highway 91 Interchange, which is currently anticipated to occur at the end of May 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' and 'N' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Doug Newton
Supervisor, Traffic Operations
(604-276-4032)

DN:lce



**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870,
Amendment Bylaw 8730**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, as amended, is further amended at by deleting section 3.1 and substituting the following:
 - 3.1 Pursuant to the *Motor Vehicle Act*, the **General Manager, Engineering & Public Works** is authorized to make orders, and to rescind, revoke, amend or vary any such order, in respect of the matters set out in Schedule A to this Bylaw, and thereby to exercise the powers of the **City** in respect to those matters.
2. Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, as amended, is further amended at by deleting Schedule A and substituting Schedule A attached to and forming part of this bylaw.
3. Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, as amended, is further amended at by deleting Schedule C in its entirety and substituting Schedule B attached to and forming part of this bylaw.
4. This bylaw is cited as "**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 8730**".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER



SCHEDULE A to BYLAW NO. 5870

POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GENERAL MANAGER, ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Control Devices

- (a) the placing or erecting of **traffic control devices** to give effect to the provisions of the *Motor Vehicle Act* or the provisions of this Bylaw, or the provisions of any order made by the **General Manager, Engineering & Public Works** pursuant to this Bylaw;

Parking Regulations

- (b) the regulation, control or prohibition of the **stopping, standing or parking of vehicles** within the **City**;
- (c) the establishment and use of loading, commercial and passenger zones and the designation thereof;
- (d) the establishment and use of taxi stands and the designation thereof.

Weight Limits

- (e) the establishment of weight limits for **vehicles** operating on **streets** within the **City**;

School Crossings

- (f) the establishment of school crossings within the **City** and/or the regulation and control of pedestrian and vehicular traffic with respect to such crossings; and
- (g) the regulation of traffic passing by or in the vicinity of schools through the use of traffic patrols, and for such purpose may vest in the school children or other persons employed in traffic patrols, the power to require the stopping of vehicles at school crossings or other designated places on any **street**.

Schedule B to Bylaw No. 8730

SCHEDULE C to BLYAW NO. 5870

SPEED ZONES

**Highways On Which Traffic Is Limited To
60 Kilometres (37.28 Miles) Per Hour**

1. Westminster Highway between No. 4 Road and No. 6 Road.
2. Westminster Highway between Nelson Road and Highway 91.
3. No. 6 Road between Cambie Road and Westminster Highway.
4. Vulcan Way from No. 6 Road to a point 46 metres (50.31 yards) east of the Bath Slough Bridge.
5. Garden City Road northbound between Westminster Highway and Sea Island Way, and southbound between Sea Island Way and 90 metres (295.27 feet) north of Westminster Highway.
6. Alderbridge Way between Garden City Road and Shell Road.