

Mayor Helps and Council  
City Hall  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

June 18, 2019

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council,

Please find enclosed four documents:

- A letter signed by 107 local residents asking for a meeting to discuss a comprehensive traffic plan for Chambers street (Fernwood) and adjacent streets, which address serious safety and traffic density issues in the area.
- An email from a local resident (Michael Crawford) reporting on a conversation he had following the June 5 information meeting hosted by the Fernwood Neighbourhood Association regarding the proposed Vic High development. The conversation was with the traffic engineer contracted to do the traffic assessment and modelling for the proposed development. In that conversation, the engineer stated that Chambers is designed as a "local traffic" street designed to handle 1500 vehicles per day, whereas it is currently handling 2500 vehicles per day.
- A scanned and printed picture from the June 5 presentation (see bullet above) providing statistics on current and past traffic volumes on Chambers street.
- Example email exchanges between local residents and City representatives asking the City to address the traffic issues on Chambers Street and adjacent streets. These example exchanges date back to 2009, and have not yet received a response beyond a "canned" message. We know of at least two other local residents who have had similar exchanges with the city; in short, we feel our concerns are not being heard.

We would appreciate a prompt response to our letter and attached materials.

Thank you,

Neighbours of Chambers ( [REDACTED] )



Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council,

We, the Neighbours of Chambers, are writing to express our concern regarding traffic on Chambers Street, Caledonia Avenue, and other adjacent streets between Pandora Avenue and George Jay Elementary School. We seek a comprehensive neighborhood traffic plan that addresses safety and traffic density issues in our community.

Recent developments and increased population density in the Downtown, North Park, Harris Green, Hillside-Quadra, and Fernwood neighborhoods have led to a substantial rise in motor vehicle traffic in these areas. In particular, traffic has increased sharply on Cook Street, particularly during rush hours; as a result, motorists – including commercial vehicles and taxis – are now using Chambers Street as a corridor to avoid the commercial area on Cook Street. Traffic is also high on Caledonia Avenue, another key artery for traffic movement through the neighborhood.

Chambers Street is a designated greenway regularly used by cyclists commuting to and from downtown. Chambers Street and adjacent streets also provide access to three daycares - Springridge and the Fernwood NRG daycare on Gladstone Avenue, and Tiggers Daycare at Chambers and Princess Avenue. Children attending George Jay Elementary School, Victoria High School, and Central Middle School walk and ride bicycles on Chambers on a daily basis. Nonetheless, only one crosswalk exists for safe crossing, at Grant Street and Chambers. The volume and speed of motor vehicles puts other users at constant risk. Altercations between motorists and pedestrians/cyclists already occur regularly, and we know of at least one hit and run on the corner of Caledonia and Chambers (January 6, 2019 – see attached notice). Our children can no longer use the street safely to make their way to school.

The situation is likely to worsen given a number of proposals currently under consideration by the city:

1. Development of Vancouver Street bike/pedestrian corridor between Cook street village and Caledonia Avenue, with the (unrealistic) expectation that car traffic will use Cook Street
2. Development of the Wellburn's building at Cook and Pandora, which includes the creation of approximately 100 rental units. Underground parking is proposed to enter and exit from Cook Street
3. Development of what used to be St. Andrews school, including approximately 300 units and a large grocery store, with parking coming off Vancouver and Mason Streets (in direct conflict with 1. above)
4. Development of the former Vic High Teacherage building and adjacent lots on Chambers Street between Grant Street and North Park Street, with approximately 30 units
5. Development of the property behind Victoria High School, including the creation of 155 units. Traffic flow and parking is currently planned to enter and exit from Chambers Street (via Caledonia and Grant streets)

The planned development to the west of Victoria High School is of highest concern, since there is currently no provision for traffic entrances anywhere but onto and off of Chambers Street. The bigger



picture cannot be ignored: the combination of these five developments will increase traffic on Chambers Street as well as streets perpendicular to it: Caledonia, Gladstone, North Park, and Balmoral in particular.

We urge you to address these traffic issues before moving another 300+ families into the neighbourhood.

Chambers Street is in need of more than calming - it requires integrated planning that takes into account the large increase in density planned for the neighbourhood, as well as changes to the transportation network that add traffic to the street. It is not enough to require each development to conduct its own traffic survey; we need the city to build a comprehensive plan that covers all of the new developments listed above, to understand and address the need for traffic calming and resident parking, and find concrete and immediate solutions for addressing the current and proposed situations. To this end, we would like to request a meeting with the Fernwood liaison, Sharmarke Dubow, and with a senior traffic manager who is familiar with traffic issues in Fernwood.

Respectfully,

Neighbours of Chambers







**LOOKING FOR A WITNESS**

**ON JANUARY 6, 2019, A PEDESTRIAN WAS HIT BY A CAR  
IN THE CHAMBERS ST. & CALEDONIA AVE. AREA.**

**THE CAR DID NOT STOP. IF YOU HAVE ANY  
INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT VICTORIA POLICE.**

**FILE # 19-939**



PETITION REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR CHAMBERS STREET AND THE ADJOINING STREETS.

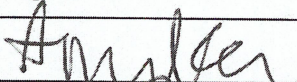

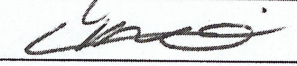

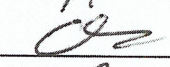



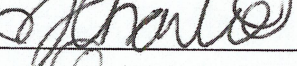
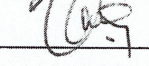


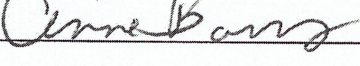
We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

	Name	Signature	Address	Email address	Date
1	Jim Neighen	[Signature]	2017 Camera St		May 22
2	Karen Boyarchuk	K Currie	2017 Camera St		May 22
3	Trish Richards	TR Richards	1170 Caledonia		May 22
4	AARON PURSER	[Signature]	1168 CALEDONIA		MAY 22
5	F. AER SULLIVAN	[Signature]	1921 chambers		May 22
6	TANYA DESCOTEAU	[Signature]	1925 CHAMBERS		May 23/19
7	Barrett R Blackwell	[Signature]	2000 CHAMBERS		
8	MARC STUBBS	[Signature]	2002 chambers		
9	ROSALIND MILHAUD	[Signature]	2019 chambers		May 22
10	NEAL O'REILLY	[Signature]	2025 CHAMBERS		MAY 22
11	TERRA OLIVA	[Signature]	2012 chambers st		MAY 26
12	Ben Cram	[Signature]	2012 Chambers St.		May 26
13	Caitlin Croteau	Caitlin Croteau	1170 Caledonia Ave.		May 26



PETITION REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR CHAMBERS STREET AND THE ADJOINING STREETS.

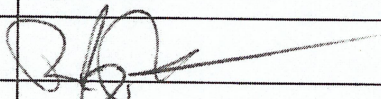

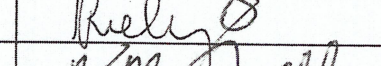
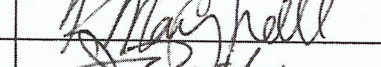
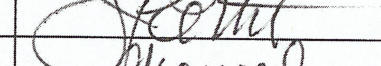


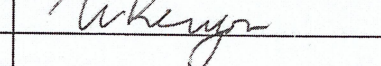


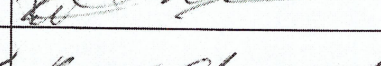
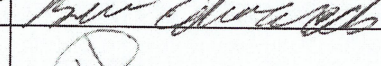
We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

	Name	Signature	Address	Email address	Date
14	Amika Crawford		1907 Chambers St	[REDACTED]	May 22
15	Kayla Bird		1907 Chambers	[REDACTED]	May 23
16	Chris Morier		1162 North Park St.	[REDACTED]	23 May *
17	Natasha Erkonlaub		1162 N Park St	[REDACTED]	May 23
18	Cliff Gubler		1162 N-PARK	[REDACTED]	
19	M. J. Symon		1158 N Park	[REDACTED]	
20	A. Charleson		1158 North Park St	[REDACTED]	March 23
21	L. McIntyre		1158 North Park St	[REDACTED]	May 23
22	M. Charles		1158 N. PARK ST	[REDACTED]	May 23
23	DANIEL NATEE		1144 NORTH PARK ST	[REDACTED]	
24	Talon Bickett		1142 North Park St	[REDACTED]	
25	Rika Shimizu		1142 N Park	[REDACTED]	May 23rd
26	Anne Barnes		1142 N Park	[REDACTED]	May 23



PETITION REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR CHAMBERS STREET AND THE ADJOINING STREETS.

We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

	Name	Signature	Address	Email address	Date
40	BOB RUTHERFORD		1125 CALEDONIA		June 19
41	Gloria Gray		1908 Stanley Ave		June 5/19
42	Irene Rieley		1323 Balmoral Rd.		June 5/19
43	Karla Marshall		1157 Empress Ave		June 5/19
44	Joanna Pettit		1821 Yukon St		
45	Oreykawal		1324 Grant St		
46	Lance Priestley		1289 Balmoral Rd.		
47	NANCY KENYON		1274A Denman St		June 5/19
48	<del>Joe Jones</del>		1530 CAMOSUN ST		June 5/19
49	Nadia Fink		9-1211 Gladstone Ave		June 5/19
50	Belinda Collins		3 1211 Gladstone Ave		
51	BEV EDWARDS		8-12116 Gladstone		June 5/19
52	Yaney		1211 Gladstone Ave		June 5/19



PETITION REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR CHAMBERS STREET AND THE ADJOINING STREETS.

We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

	Name	Signature	Address	Email address	Date
66	Melissa Moroz	Melissa Moroz	1147 Caledonia	[REDACTED]	May 7
67	Morgan Hockney	Morgan Hockney	1147 Caledonia	[REDACTED]	May 7
68	Isabel R. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1135 Caledonia	[REDACTED]	
69	JP MILLER	JP Miller	1133 CALEDONIA	[REDACTED]	5/7
70	STEVE WONG	Steve Wong	1137 CALEDONIA	[REDACTED]	May 7
71	Vivian Vishnevsky	Vivian Vishnevsky	1112 Caledonia	[REDACTED]	
72	Raphaél Roy-Touin	Raphaél Roy-Touin	1120 Caledonia		7/5/19
73	KARL SCHNITZLER-SCHNEIDER	Karl Schnitzler-Schneider	1128 Caledonia		May 7/19
74	Emma Porter	Emma Porter	1136 Caledonia Ave		May 7/19
75	Evan Quinn	Evan Quinn	2-1142 Caledonia Ave.	[REDACTED]	May 7/19
76	Elizabeth McKay	Elizabeth McKay	1160 Caledonia Ave	[REDACTED]	May 7/19
77	MICHAEL ADON	Michael Adon	1165 CALEDONIA AVE	[REDACTED]	
78	DANIEL ST DENIS	Daniel St Denis	1154 CALEDONIA AVE	[REDACTED]	May 7/19



PETITION REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR CHAMBERS STREET AND THE ADJOINING STREETS.


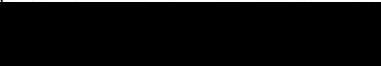

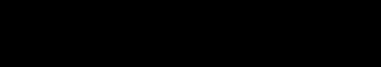
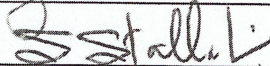
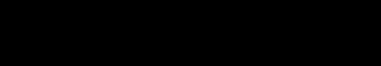


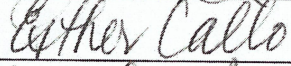


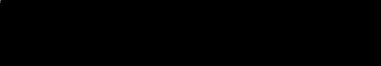



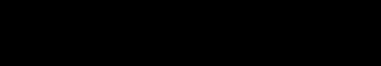
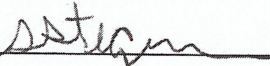
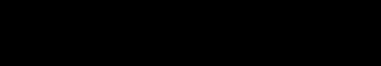
We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

	Name	Signature	Address	Email address	Date
79	Amanda Evens	Amanda Evens	1170 Pembroke St <del>Pembroke St</del>	[REDACTED]	May 13, 2019
80	Credie Carmichael	Credie Carmichael	1164 Pembroke St	[REDACTED]	May 13/19
81	JAMES TRICHT	[Signature]	1154 Pembroke	[REDACTED]	5/5
82	John Wong	John Wong	1152 Pembroke St.	[REDACTED]	13/5
83	Fernando Lopez	[Signature]	1144 PEMBROKE ST.	[REDACTED]	13 MAY 19
84	CHARLES JOERIN	[Signature]	1033 QUEENS AVE	[REDACTED]	13 May 2019
85	Dorothy Crawford	[Signature]	2006 Chambers St	[REDACTED]	May 20/19
86	Vera Carlos	[Signature]	1152 Pembroke St	[REDACTED]	20 May 19
87	CHRISTINA LENIC	[Signature]	1153 PEMBROKE ST	[REDACTED]	2019.05.22
88	Laila Peterson	[Signature]	1153 Pembroke St	[REDACTED]	22 May 19
89	Evan Beatty	[Signature]	1120 Pembroke St	[REDACTED]	22 May 19
90	Anastasia Sobel	[Signature]	1120 Pembroke St	[REDACTED]	22 May 19
91	Wren Mulvey	[Signature]	1120 Pembroke St	[REDACTED]	
			1114 Pembroke St	[REDACTED]	



PETITION REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR CHAMBERS STREET AND THE ADJOINING STREETS.

We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

	Name	Signature	Address	Email address	Date
92	Gabriel Gaultier		1141 Caledonia Ave		05/07/19
93	Lauren Gaultier		" "		"
94	Sara Stallard		1149 Mason St.		June 5 2019
95	Jane Michiel		1207 Gladstone		5/19
96	Esther Callo.		1343 Vining St.		June 5 2019
97	Alyson Culbert		1902 Chambers St.		June 05/19
98	Barbara Williams		1919 Fernwood		June 5/19
99	Victoria Crossy		2020 Fernwood		June 5/19
100	Skyl Stogers		1617 Camosun		June 5/19



We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

[illegible]



We, the undersigned, are Neighbours of Chambers. We have read the attached letter; we share the concern expressed in the letter and urge the City to address these concerns before approving developments that will compound them further.

[illegible]



## Sonya Bird

---

**To:** Michael "doc" Crawford; Brett Gaylor  
**Cc:** Garde Collins; Morgan Hocking; Shelley Baart; Sonya Bird; Trish Richards; blair mitchell; melissa moroz  
**Subject:** RE: canvassing update

**From:** Michael "doc" Crawford <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** June 6, 2019 11:09 AM  
**To:** Brett Gaylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Garde Collins <[REDACTED]>; Morgan Hocking <[REDACTED]>; Shelley Baart <[REDACTED]>; Sonya Bird <[REDACTED]>; Trish Richards <[REDACTED]>; blair mitchell <[REDACTED]>; melissa moroz <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: canvassing update

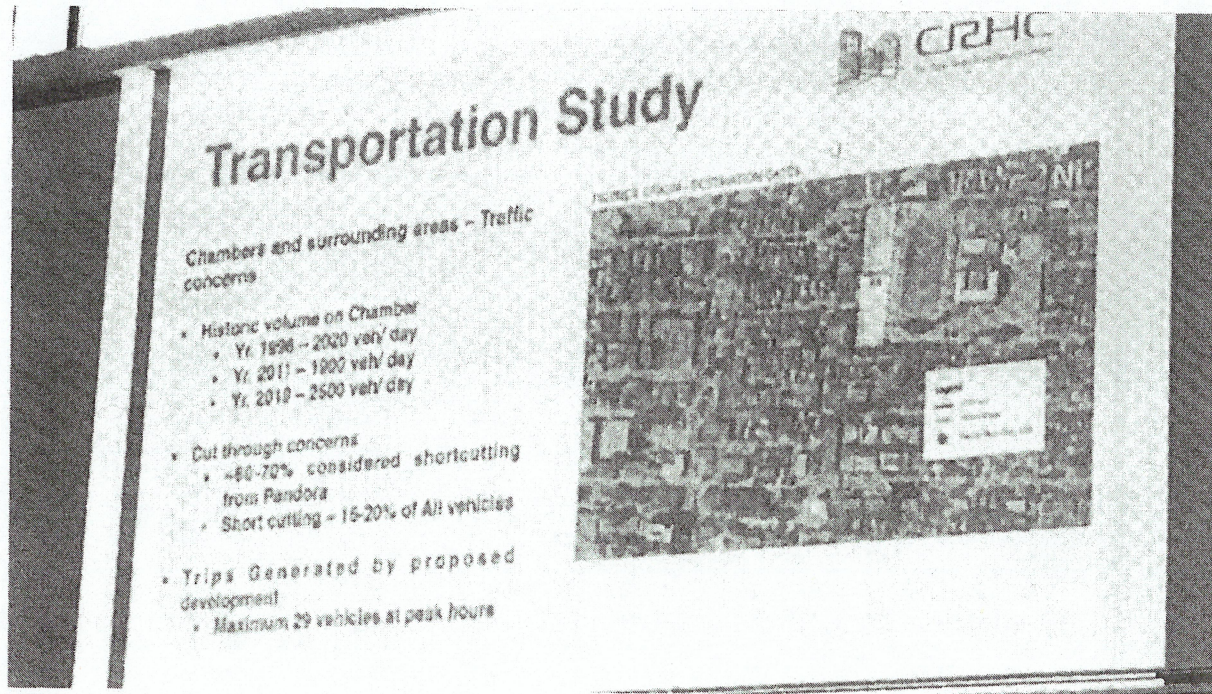
I spoke with the traffic engineer contracted to do the study after the meeting. He said that Chambers is designated as a "local traffic" street designed to ideally handle 1500 vehicles per day. At 2500 vehicles, we are 1000 over the recommended.

se consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



Slide from the June 5<sup>th</sup> presentation at the information session hosted by the Fernwood Community Association, about the proposed Vic High development (joint CRD CRHC development).

Note that vehicular traffic has risen dramatically since 2011 (by 600 vehicles per day), with a significant proportion of vehicles taking Chambers as a short-cut from Pandora (to stay off Cook street).





# Transportation Study

Chambers and surrounding areas – Traffic concerns

- Historic volume on Chamber
  - Yr. 1996 – 2020 veh/ day
  - Yr. 2011 – 1900 veh/ day
  - Yr. 2019 – 2500 veh/ day

- Cut through concerns

- ~60-70% considered shortcutting from Pandora
- Short cutting ~ 15-20% of All vehicles

Trips Generated by proposed development

- Maximum 29 vehicles at peak hours







Sonya Bird &lt;crawbirds@gmail.com&gt;

---

**Fwd: Traffic calming on Chambers**

1 message

---

**Michael "doc" Crawford** <[REDACTED]>  
To: The Crawbirds <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jun 18, 2019 at 7:37 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael "Doc" Crawford** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, Jul 21, 2011 at 13:56

Subject: Re: Traffic calming on Chambers

To: Sonya Bird &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

CC: Steve Hutchison &lt;shutchison@victoria.ca&gt;, [REDACTED] &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;, [REDACTED] &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

Hello Steve,

I am Sonya's husband. We are also curious as to what the volume of cars is when compared to other "residential" streets in the city. 85% of 1000 cars is different than 85% of 10,000 cars. There are many high usage but residential roadways in the city with lowered speed limits. Fernwood Street and Craigflower Street being 2 examples in my mind. How do we work toward at least a lowered speed limit?

You also stated that Chambers Street results "combined with collision statistics, indicate your street is operating relatively safely when compared to other streets throughout the city". Can we get a copy of those statistics? We know of at least 2 accidents at Chambers and Caladonia in the last few years. From the above statement, can we assume that most all residential streets, in the city of Victoria, have at least 2 accidents every 7 years or so?

Thank you for the time and effort that you have put into our concerns.

doc

Michael "Doc" Crawford

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. " - Edward Abbey

Slipstream First Aid

Slipstream Japan: [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

We have a Facebook page! Join us, find your classmates, and keep updated about all things Slipstream!  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Victoria-BC/Slipstream-First-Aid/8803414681>

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

On Thu, Jul 21, 2011 at 12:42, Sonya Bird <[REDACTED]> wrote:

hi Steve, and thanks for your emails. Those stats are good to see. For what it's worth, it's the outliers that worry me. I'm not surprised about the 85th percentile speeds - a fair amount of traffic on our street is people dropping off and picking up kids from school/daycare. The high volume of traffic at these times, going relatively slowly because of congestion, probably account for the speeds you cite below. The problem traffic is outside of these times (and presumably outside of the 85th percentile figures you cite): it's the cars speeding down Chambers at low volume times of day. Do you have any numbers on that traffic, i.e. on the remaining 15%? Now that I think about it, can you confirm that the surveys were conducted during the school year? I'm assuming so - the picture might be different if the survey were conducted during the summer months.

I wonder if the city would consider as a partial solution lowering the speed limit on Chambers to 30km/hour, as it is on Fernwood. There are certainly enough schools and daycare centres in the area to warrant a lowered speed limit...

Thanks again for your time,

Sonya

\*\*\*\*\*

Sonya Bird  
Department of Linguistics  
University of Victoria  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]

---

From: Steve Hutchison [shutchison@victoria.ca]  
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 2:28 PM  
To: Sonya Bird  
Cc: John Luton (Councillor); Doug Demarzo  
Subject: FW: Traffic calming on Chambers

Dear Mrs, Bird

Further to my June 17, 2011 email we have now completed additional speed surveys on the 1900 and 2000 blocks of Chambers Street. The results from these recent surveys indicated 85th percentile speeds of 39 km/h and 36km/h respectively. These results, combined with collision statistics, indicate your street is operating relatively safely when compared to other streets throughout the city. Due to our limited resources and more urgent needs in other areas of the city it



does not appear that the expenditure of additional funding on Chambers Street is warranted at this time.

Thank you again for following up. If you have any further questions or comments please contact me again.

Yours truly,

Steve Hutchison, ASCT  
Transportation Technologist  
City of Victoria Engineering Department  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
Phone: 250 361 0338  
Fax: 250 361 0311  
www.victoria.ca<<http://www.victoria.ca>>

---

From: Steve Hutchison  
Sent: Friday, Jun 17, 2011 3:49 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: John Luton (Councillor); Doug Demarzo  
Subject: RE: Traffic calming on Chambers

Dear Mrs. Bird,

Thank you for your email of May 9, 2011. I apologies for the delay in getting back to you. It is unfortunate we didn't have an opportunity to meet at the open house on May 5 to discuss the proposed project on Caledonia Avenue. Thank you for taking the time to write to us with your suggestions for Chambers Street.

As part of the work on Caledonia Avenue we have proposed creating bulb outs on Caledonia at the intersection of Chambers Street. The bulb outs at this intersection are proposed in areas where parking is currently not permitted. These bulb outs would create green space, create separation between pedestrians from motor vehicles, and reduce crossing distances for pedestrians while helping to reduce the speed of turning vehicles.

As a result of a limited right of way, Chambers Street has a narrow existing roadway (6.0m) which in itself should result in lower travel speeds. Speed data collected in 1996 and 2002 indicated 85th percentile speeds of 44.1 and 40.8 km/h supports this claim. Unfortunately data scheduled to be collected in 2009 appears to have either not been collected or lost. I have arranged to have a survey completed on Chambers Streets as soon as possible and will share this information with you upon completion.

The image below illustrates a 10 m long truck similar in length to a garbage or recycling truck, a small moving van, or fire truck. The image shows the vehicle making one of four potential turning movements or two through movements at this intersection. The space required for these vehicles negates the possibility of most additional traffic calming features including circles or medians at the intersection. The bulb outs shown on this illustration appear to be the most effective treatment for this intersection as they satisfy the many constraints, goals, and objectives for the proposed work on Caledonia Avenue.

[cid:image001.jpg@01CC422A.1595CBE0]

Thank you again for contacting us with your concerns and suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you again and will be in touch with you regarding the results of our upcoming speed and volume survey on your street.

Yours truly,

Steve Hutchison, ASCT



Transportation Technologist  
City of Victoria Engineering Department  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
Phone: 250 361 0338  
Fax: 250 361 0311  
www.victoria.ca<http://www.victoria.ca>

-----Original Message-----

From: Sonya Bird [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2011 11:48 AM  
To: Steve Hutchison  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Traffic calming on Chambers

hi Steve, I'm emailing you to put in my two cents about the proposed greening of Caledonia between Cook and Chambers. I'm sorry I wasn't at the meeting on Thursday - I stayed home with our two little kids while my husband went. We live on Chambers street, just off the intersection with Caledonia (1907).

Looking back through my emails, I realize now that the last exchange we had about traffic calming in the area was two years ago (see the email thread below)! Time flies! At that time, I had a good long chat with Tim Galavan who explained to me the survey that was done in 1999 (?) to address traffic issues on Chambers street, and the resulting traffic calming measures that were taken. He was really helpful in making me understand the issues related to Chambers street. From what I remember from our conversation, there wasn't much we could do about reducing \*volume\* on Chambers street, because it served as an access to many local facilities (community centre, schools, etc.). I don't remember talking specifically about the issue of traffic \*speed\* on the street though, which presumably can be addressed independently from volume. Repaving Caledonia street provides us with a good opportunity to think again about how traffic speed can be reduced on Chambers. So, I wanted to add my voice to others' at the meeting in requesting that traffic calming on Chambers, specifically at the intersection of Chambers and Caledonia, be included in the plan the city comes up with. Being an avid cyclist myself, I would love to see the intersection safer for cyclists and motorists alike, as well as for my kids!

On a related note, in 2009 when I talked with you and Tim, you both mentioned that a study would be conducted in the fall 2009 to reassess traffic volume and speed on Chambers. Do you know if that ever happened, and if so what the study found?

Thanks Steve, I appreciate the time the city takes to get input from community members on these kinds of projects. I imagine that trying to satisfy everyone's needs is quite the balancing act!!

Sonya

\*\*\*\*\*

Sonya Bird  
Department of Linguistics  
University of Victoria  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]

---

From: Steve Hutchison [shutchison@victoria.ca]  
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2009 2:19 PM  
To: Sonya Bird



Cc: Philippe Lucas (Councillor)  
Subject: Traffic calming on Chambers

Sonya,

Thank you for your email of April 21, 2009 addressed to councilor Lucas regarding your concerns of vehicle volume and speeding on Chambers Street. Thank you for taking the time to write to us with your concerns. They are important to us.

Traffic calming devices, such as speed humps, were first introduced in the City of Victoria through the Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plan (NTMP) program. The NTMP program was initiated in Victoria to assess neighbourhood traffic problems and apply innovative traffic management solutions. As traffic calming installations often have an impact on adjacent streets these issues are discussed as a neighbourhood wide issue. Each of Victoria's neighbourhoods has completed an NTMP study and we are now in the process of implementing these approved plans.

The traffic calming installations on Chamber Street have now been completed as suggested by the Fernwood Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plan (NTMP). These calming measures included alternating chokers and a new sidewalk on the east side of the street. Alternating chokers were recommended for Chambers Street to add "friction" and make it less attractive to short-cutting, reduce speed, narrow the crossing distance for pedestrians, and improve sightlines. At this time, our funding priorities are being directed towards the implementation of the remainder of the approved NTMP's. You may wish to review a copy of the Fernwood NTMP at the Public Service Counter at City Hall.

As a result of your request a traffic speed and volume study will be conducted this summer on Chambers Street to determine the extent of the problems you have mentioned. Once this data is collected we will contact you again to share the results with you.

Thank you again for contacting us with your concerns.

Steve Hutchison, AScT  
Transportation Technologist  
City of Victoria Engineering Department  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
Phone: 250 361 0338  
Fax: 250 361 0311  
[www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)<<http://www.victoria.ca>>

---

From: Keith Kresse  
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2009 4:01 PM  
To: Steve Hutchison  
Cc: Tim Galavan; Richard Adam  
Subject: FW: Traffic calming on Chambers



Sorry Steve, I don't recall whether you've responded to this.  
I think Tim asked Rich to do some counts?  
I've recorded it on your task list, but check with Tim before you send anything.

Thanks.

---

From: Tim Galavan  
Sent: Friday Apr 24, 2009 10:09 AM  
To: Keith Kresse  
Subject: FW: Traffic calming on Chambers Keith, can you please have someone review, respond and copy Peter, Mike M, Mike L, myself and Councillor Lucas.  
Thanks

Tim Galavan  
Manager of Transportation & Development  
(250) 361-0324  
tgalavan@victoria.ca

---

From: Peter Sparanese  
Sent: Wednesday Apr 22, 2009 4:04 PM  
To: Philippe Lucas (Councillor)  
Cc: Tim Galavan; Mike Lai; Mike McCliggott  
Subject: RE: Traffic calming on Chambers Hi Philippe,

Thank you for the email. I'll ask the Transportation Team, via Tim Galavan to review the concerns and respond to the inquiry. We have some background on this area and completed the Fernwood Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plan back in 1996. We actually installed some traffic calming on Chambers Street as part of that Plan. We can certainly look into the latest concerns.

Thanks again for the inquiry. We will copy you on the response.

Peter

---

From: Philippe Lucas (Councillor)  
Sent: Wednesday Apr 22, 2009 9:30 AM  
To: Peter Sparanese  
Subject: FW: Traffic calming on Chambers Hi Peter,

The email below expresses concern over the speed and volume of traffic on Chambers; what steps can we take to see if there actually is a problem on this street, and what options might be at our disposal to to address this issue.

Thanks,  
Philippe Lucas

---

From: Sonya Bird [mailto: ]  
Sent: Tuesday Apr 21, 2009 9:51 AM



To: Philippe Lucas (Councillor)

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Traffic calming on Chambers

Hi Philippe, thank you for your visit to Fernwood last night, it was great having the chance to hear what you had to say about various issues in the city. I'm Sonya – I was the one in the back with the toddler, sorry for the occasional disruptions!

I had a question for you which I didn't ask last night because it seemed a bit out of place at the general meeting. I was wondering though if you might be able to offer some guidance. A few of us residents on Chambers street are quite concerned with the volume and speed of traffic on our street. Many motorists use it to bypass Cook street, speeding up and down it at peak hours. There are two schools in the immediate vicinity: Vic High and George Jay Elementary. Kids and their parents commute by bike and foot to these schools. In addition many cyclists use Chambers as part of their daily commute. The combination of high volumes of speeding cars + pedestrians (including many kids) + cyclists seems like a disaster waiting to happen – it's only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs. Being the parent of a very small child, I'm very much aware of the risk the traffic poses. It worries me how quickly and easily Amika could get hurt by motorists who don't seem to realize that Chambers is a residential street.

So, my question for you is what steps do we need to take to get the city to do some traffic calming on Chambers street?

- Who should we approach with the matter?
- What kinds of argumentation/evidence should we be compiling to make our case?
- Should we have a concrete proposal in place before going to the City?
- Is there anything else you can think of that would be useful for us to know at this point?

As an initial step, we were hoping to have the City come and install a counter on Chambers so that we can actually quantify how much traffic uses Chambers and how fast the cars go. Does this seem like a useful thing to do, and if so how do we go about doing it?

Any ideas you have on this would be much appreciated. Thanks Philippe!

Sonya

\*\*\*\*\*

Sonya Bird  
Department of Linguistics  
University of Victoria  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]

--  
doc Michael "doc" Crawford "May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds." - Edward Abbey Slipstream First Aid [REDACTED]

We have a Facebook page! Join us, find your classmates, and keep updated about all things Slipstream! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Victoria-BC/Slipstream-First-Aid/8803414681> Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



**From:** Trish Richards [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Traffic on Chambers St  
**Date:** September 9, 2019 at 10:04 PM  
**To:**

TR

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** terra ogawa [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Traffic on Chambers St  
**Date:** May 23, 2019 at 11:25:02 AM PDT  
**To:** Trish Richards [REDACTED]

Lengthy email chain showing our inquiries to the traffic - not sure of there is any info for you in here of value.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ben Cram [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thu, May 23, 2019 at 11:23 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Traffic on Chambers St  
**To:** terra ogawa [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ben Cram [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tue, 30 Apr 2019 at 14:03  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Traffic on Chambers St  
**To:** Ben Isitt (Councillor) <[BIsitt@victoria.ca](mailto:BIsitt@victoria.ca)>

Thanks so much for your energy on this.

On Tue, 30 Apr 2019 at 09:51, Ben Isitt (Councillor) <[BIsitt@victoria.ca](mailto:BIsitt@victoria.ca)> wrote:

Hi Ben,

I'm copying Christine Culham, Senior Manager of Housing for CRD, who hopefully can connect you with the appropriate staff responsible for the project.

Ben

Ben Isitt  
Victoria City Councillor and CRD Director  
Email. [bisitt@victoria.ca](mailto:bisitt@victoria.ca) | Tel. 250.882.9302

---

**From:** Ben Cram [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 30, 2019 6:09:21 AM  
**To:** Ben Isitt (Councillor)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Traffic on Chambers St

Thanks Ben,

Who would you suggest is the best person to send correspondence to moving forward with this? I could also forward the info from the meeting held by residents of these blocks of Chambers.

On Fri, 26 Apr 2019 at 10:32, Ben Isitt (Councillor) <[BIsitt@victoria.ca](mailto:BIsitt@victoria.ca)> wrote:



Hi Ben,

My understanding is that the CRHC is looking at access options from Grant.

I encourage you to continue to weigh in as the project evolves.

Ben

Ben Isitt  
Victoria City Councillor and CRD Director  
Email. [bisitt@victoria.ca](mailto:bisitt@victoria.ca) | Tel. 250.882.9302

---

**From:** Ben Cram <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** April 26, 2019 5:10:20 AM  
**To:** Ben Isitt (Councillor)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Traffic on Chambers St

Thanks for writing Ben. Our main concern is that the new development planned behind Vic high currently only has access via Chambers and the new density will put a huge strain on that stretch of Chambers. It would be great to see access added from Grant St so residents could access the development from both the Fernwood side and the Cook street side.

Thanks,

Ben

On Thu, 25 Apr 2019 at 18:45, Ben Isitt (Councillor) <[BIsitt@victoria.ca](mailto:BIsitt@victoria.ca)> wrote:

Thanks for following up, Ben.

I am copying the City's Assistant Director of Transportation, Philip Bellefontaine, as well as city council liaison to Fernwood, Sharmarke Dubow.

City Council has recently allocated a substantial increase in funding for traffic calming, and has given strong emphasis to neighbourhood-led transportation planning in the Strategic Plan. I hope to see traffic safety improvements along Chambers in the near term.

All the best,

Ben

Ben Isitt  
Victoria City Councillor and CRD Director  
Email. [bisitt@victoria.ca](mailto:bisitt@victoria.ca) | Tel. 250.882.9302

---

**From:** Ben Cram <[REDACTED]>



**Sent:** April 18, 2019 10:36:34 AM

**To:** Richard Adam

**Cc:** Councillors; Fraser Work; Jonathan Tinney; Keith Kresse; Vicki Costello; Community Planning email inquiries

**Subject:** Re: FW: Traffic on Chambers St

Hello

We would like to follow up on this. We voiced our concerns in 2016 regarding the substantial increase in traffic on Chambers St. Can we request a proper inquiry? Or any advise on who to contact to get some movement on this?

Thank you very much for any help you can provide,

Ben

2012 Chambers St, Victoria, BC V8T 3K9

On Thu, 27 Jul 2017 at 09:24, Richard Adam <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mr. Cram,

Thank you for following up regarding traffic conditions on Chambers Street.

Due to the complexity and time involved in developing the Local Area Plans (LAPs), the City has adjusted the schedule to ensure each neighbourhood gets the time required. The Fernwood LAP that was originally scheduled for this year has been rescheduled for 2018. I've included a link to the LAP schedule information and copied the Community Planning Department. If you have any questions specific to that process or timelines, I encourage you to contact them directly.

<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/planning-development/community-planning/neighbourhood-plans.html>

With the construction of the Pandora cycle track, closely followed by roadworks through the North Park Village on Cook Street, I'm sure there have been some temporary impacts to traffic on Chambers Street over the last number of months. Changes to traffic patterns due to construction, however, don't represent typical conditions, and shouldn't be the impetus for implementing long-term traffic management strategies.

I acknowledge that people occasionally shortcut on Chambers Street; however, the street is also legitimately used by other neighbourhood residents accessing their homes. The Neighbourhood Transportation Plan evaluated the issue on Chambers Street almost 20 years ago and that led to the traffic calming measures seen on the street today. I've shared our most recent data with you regarding traffic volumes and collisions - there have been no additional studies completed since we last



corresponded, and nothing in those studies suggest there has been a degradation in safety on the street in recent years. Through the upcoming LAP, however, all of the neighbourhood issues will be reviewed, and a terms of reference for a traffic study will be developed to review these issues. It is prudent to step back and take a broader look at how traffic circulates though the neighbourhood before taking action on individual streets.

I can appreciate this may not be the immediate action you are seeking, however, the City will be focusing its attention on your neighbourhood in 2018. If you would like to continue this discussion, please feel free to contact me directly.

Richard Adam  
Supervisor – Transportation Operations  
Engineering and Public Works  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0326 F 250.361.0311

[<image002.gif>](#) [<image003.png>](#) [<image004.gif>](#) [<image005.gif>](#) [<image006.gif>](#)

---

**From:** Ben Cram <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 5:34 PM  
**To:** "Jeremy Loveday (Councillor)" <[jloveday@victoria.ca](mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca)>, Richard Adam <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Traffic on Chambers St

Hello!

Chambers Street is so busy! It has become an alternate artery for traffic. Can you please update us as to what measures are being



...can you please update us as to what measures are being taken to address this. In our last communications:

Staff will gather traffic operations data for Chambers Street (traffic speeds and counts) in preparation for the Fernwood Local Area Plan (LAP) process scheduled to start in March 2017.

As part of the LAP process, traffic issues on Chambers will be thoroughly evaluated and actions for improvement will be developed and documented in the plan. The LAP planning process is specifically designed to identify, investigate, evaluate, and prioritise recommendations for required traffic improvements in each of the City's neighbourhoods.

I beg you to please address the neighbourhood's concerns on the traffic. It has become excessive and fast. And I can remind you that it is a route for 2 schools: George Jay and Vic High.

Any updates would be appreciated.

Thank you

Ben and Terra

On Thu, Jan 12, 2017 at 10:20 AM, Jeremy Loveday (Councillor) <[jloveday@victoria.ca](mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca)> wrote:

Hi Ben,

Thank you for continuing to push on this. I will be following up with a conversation with our Engineering staff to discuss this further and make sure your comments make their way into the LAP discussions.

All the best,

Jeremy

Jeremy Loveday  
Victoria City Councillor & CRD Alt. Director  
Email: [jloveday@victoria.ca](mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca) / Tel. 250.634.2327  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JeremyLovedayforVictoria>  
Twitter: @JeremyLoveday

---

From: Jacqueline Weston  
Sent: January 12, 2017 9:25 AM  
To: [REDACTED]

cc: Councillors; Directors; Richard Adam; Brad Dollehuus; Julie



CC: Councillors, Directors, Richard Adam, Brad Delgadillo, Julie Robson; Bridget Frewer  
Subject: FW: Traffic on Chambers St

Mr. Cram,

Thank you for the follow up email regarding traffic conditions on Chambers Street.

Staff have reviewed recent collision statistics for the four intersections on Chambers Street to see if there are any emerging collision trends or obvious safety deficiencies along the corridor. There were no reported collisions in 2015 or 2016 at the intersections of Chambers Street with Princess, Pembroke, Caledonia, or North Park.

Staff will gather traffic operations data for Chambers Street (traffic speeds and counts) in preparation for the Fernwood Local Area Plan (LAP) process scheduled to start in March 2017.

As part of the LAP process, traffic issues on Chambers will be thoroughly evaluated and actions for improvement will be developed and documented in the plan. The LAP planning process is specifically designed to identify, investigate, evaluate, and prioritise recommendations for required traffic improvements in each of the City's neighbourhoods.

Your comment are valued and appreciated and will be considered through the Fernwood LAP process. You are encouraged to participate in this process to raise your concerns along with other members of your neighbourhood.

Best Regards,

Jacqueline

Jacqueline Weston, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., PMP  
Assistant Director - Transportation  
Engineering and Public Works  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0510 C 250.857.3618

[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image001.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<http://www.victoria.ca/>>

[Description: Description: Description:



[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image003.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<https://www.facebook.com/CityofVictoriaPage>>

[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image004.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<https://twitter.com/cityofvictoria>>

[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image005.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<http://www.linkedin.com/company/city-of-victoria-bc?trk=biz-companies-cym>>

---

From: Ben Cram [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Thursday, Dec 1, 2016 5:14 PM  
To: Richard Adam  
[REDACTED]; Jeremy  
Loveday (Councillor)  
<[jloveday@victoria.ca](mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca)<<mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca>>>  
Subject: Re: Traffic on Chambers St

As someone who has literally walked down this stretch of Chambers multiple times six or seven days a week for the last ten years and lived on Chambers for the last three I think the statistics don't reflect the current situation very well. (being five and twenty years old.) I think our stretch of Cook and Chambers has become a thriving neighbourhood and the amount of traffic has grown steadily in the last 5 years.

The reduction in traffic on Cook that is mentioned could be due to people diverting down Chambers. In both school drop off and pick up times there is a big mix of pedestrians of all ages and excessive vehicle traffic. If you are dropping off anywhere near Gorge Jay and then going downtown it is much easier to get on Cook by driving down Chambers to Caledonia or beyond. I see groups of pre school kids using Spring ridge commons (which is great) but cars are whipping by and its not a fenced area.

I think if the same studies were done now it would be a lot busier.

Is there anyway to get someone to have another look at the the situation on Chambers? The traffic on Cook is so heavy now that people are diverting to Chambers as a detour route. As I mentioned Chambers St is a main pedestrian route for George Jay Elementary and Vic High. The amount of traffic has grossly increased over the last few years



increased over the last few years.

Any advice on how to get the city to have a fresh look would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time,

Ben Cram

On Wed, May 25, 2016 at 3:15 PM, Richard Adam

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mr Cram,

Thank you for your email regarding traffic conditions on Chambers Street. I appreciate you taking the time to write about your concerns and for taking an active interest in road safety in your community. I apologise for the delay in my response.

Each of Victoria's neighbourhoods helped to develop Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plans (NTMP's) in the mid 90's. Similar issues on Chambers Street were raised during development of Fernwood's NTMP, and the recommended treatments have been installed. These traffic calming measures include all of the intersection bulbs, and alternating parking along the Chambers corridor which narrows the road making it less comfortable to drive fast.

[cid:image001.jpg@01D24ED7.43F65D00]

Another benefit of the NTMP's is they provide very good historical documentation of traffic conditions in our neighbourhoods. I have summarised speed and traffic volumes captured in the 90's and our most current data on Chambers (2011) in a table below.

85th% Speed - 2 way average\*

Volume - 2 way total

1996

2011

1996

2011

43.3 km/h

39 km/h

2020



1900

\*the 85th % speed is the speed that 85% of motorists are traveling at or under. The 85th percentile is the engineering standard used to establish speed related issues.

It would appear the roadway improvements installed as a result of the NTMP have had a positive influence in reducing both speed and volume on Chambers

We also use Collision statistics to help prioritise streets for improvements. The collision data we gather comes from Victoria Police collision reports. We are aware that VicPD may not respond to every reported collision, however, the police reports do represent significant collisions and collisions involving significant injury. I have summarised the most recent data set at several of the higher traffic volume intersections along the corridor.

The data suggests these intersections are operating relatively safely when compared to other similar intersection around the City.

The relatively high traffic volumes on Chambers Street are also acknowledged in the NTMP. The NTMP suggests that permanent road closures at Pembroke St west of Fernwood, Gladstone Ave west of Fernwood, and Grant Street, east of Chambers "limits the number of alternative routes available to the driver which increases the volumes along Chambers...". As those closures remain today, they continue to impact traffic volumes on Chambers.

Traffic studies on Cook Street show similar slight reductions in traffic volume and speed over the years so it's unlikely conditions on Cook Street are having a large impact on traffic conditions on Chambers.

Neighbourhood traffic issues are best addressed at a neighbourhood level as changes to one street may impact the streets around it. Through the NTMP process, neighbours were invited to walk their neighbourhoods, as a group, to talk about issues in their communities and share experiences. By hearing all of the issues faced in a community, it helps to prioritise areas to improve first. I'll be the first to admit, 20 year old NTMPs may not represent the issues residents are facing today. To update these plans, the City is embarking on Local Area Planning processes, which take a broader look at community issues (land use etc) but involve a Transportation component similar to the old NTMPs. The first Local Area Plan is underway in the Burnside Gorge



neighbourhood. The Fernwood neighbourhood's LAP is scheduled to begin in early 2017. I've attached a link to the City's web page with more information on the Local Area Plan process.

<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/planning-development/community-planning/local-area-planning.html>

I have also copied the Victoria Police Department on this email for their information and encourage you to report traffic safety issues to them directly through their on-line contact.

<https://vicpd.ca/public-safety/victims-of-crime/report-a-crime-or-traffic-complaint-online/>

If you have any more questions or comments regarding transportation issues in the City, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Richard Adam  
Supervisor – Transportation Operations  
Engineering and Public Works  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T [250.361.0326](tel:250.361.0326) <tel:(250)%20361-0326> F [250.361.0311](tel:250.361.0311) <tel:(250)%20361-0311>

[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image001.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<http://www.victoria.ca/>>

[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image003.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<https://www.facebook.com/CityofVictoriaPage>>

[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image004.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<https://twitter.com/cityofvictoria>>

[Description: Description: Description:  
cid:image005.gif@01CF3C88.FC1AFE40]  
<<http://www.linkedin.com/company/city-of-victoria-bc?trk=biz-companies-cym>>



From: Ben Cram

Date: April 14, 2016 at 6:08:43 AM PDT

To: "Jeremy Loveday (Councillor)"

<[jloveday@victoria.ca](mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca)<<mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca>>>

Subject: Traffic on Chambers St

Hello Jeremy,

As residents on Chambers St. we would like to apply or be considered for some traffic slowing or deterrent on our street. The traffic is excessive and fast. Chambers is a pedestrian and bike route for 2 schools - Vic High and George Jay. I think perhaps since Cook St has become so busy over the years that people are using Chambers as a cut through.

Thanks you for any guidance on this,

Terra Ogawa and Ben Cram

2012 Chambers St.

--

Ben Cram

OWNER

5/1115 North Park Street  
Victoria, BC, Canada, V8T 1C7

EMAIL:

WEB: [www.fernwoodcoffee.com](http://www.fernwoodcoffee.com)<<http://www.fernwoodcoffee.com>>

TWITTER:

[fernwoodcoffee](http://www.twitter.com/fernwoodcoffee)<<http://www.twitter.com/fernwoodcoffee>>

FACEBOOK:

[fernwood.coffee.company](http://facebook.com/fernwood.coffee.company)<[http://facebook.com/fernwood.coffee.co](http://facebook.com/fernwood.coffee.company)  
[mpany](http://facebook.com/fernwood.coffee.company)>

COFFEE COMPANY

<Fernwood-logo-01.jpg>



