



THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF OAK BAY
MUNICIPAL HALL – 2167 OAK BAY AVENUE – VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 1G2
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 30, 2020

City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6
Via email to mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: 2020 Bicycle Network Improvement Projects – Richardson Street
Request from Oak Bay Council to Extend Consultation

Last night at a Special Meeting of Oak Bay Council, District staff provided an update regarding the City of Victoria's progress with respect to implementation of the *Bicycle Master Plan*. I understand that City of Victoria staff will be presenting a report this Thursday, July 2, 2020 at your Committee of the Whole meeting (Agenda Item G.2), outlining the next phase of construction, which will include Kings-Haultain, Government Street North, Kimta Road and Richardson Street.

Oak Bay Council appreciates the City of Victoria's continued efforts improve cycling infrastructure and we understand that completion of the planned network by 2022 is a key priority for Council. The City's broader goal of creating safe cycling infrastructure is in alignment with the active transportation priorities of Oak Bay Council. We are aware that the City undertook a condensed community engagement process in late 2019 for this next phase of construction; however, in Council's ongoing dialogue with residents, it is unclear if Oak Bay residents were fully aware of and engaged in that process. Oak Bay Council was not included in the initial consultation process.

The Richardson Street improvements, in particular, will have significant short and long-term implications for Oak Bay. The intent of Oak Bay is to be a partner with the City of Victoria on this corridor, which spans the boundary between our

municipalities. With Richardson Street being an extension of McNeill Avenue, it is important for Oak Bay Council to have input on the proposed design for this medium-use but significant transportation corridor that runs between South Oak Bay and Victoria. Closing Richardson Street to motorized vehicles will result in significant impacts to Oak Bay residents, and will necessitate changes to roads and sidewalks to accommodate traffic patterns changes, impacting our local engineering priorities.

As such, Council would very much appreciate an opportunity for further discussion on the proposed design for the Richardson Street Corridor, prior to it being considered by the City of Victoria Council for approval. To that end, please be advised that the following motion was made by Oak Bay Council on June 29, 2020:

THAT Council request the City of Victoria extend consultation to allow Oak Bay Council the opportunity to review and comment on the design prior to approving changes to the Richardson Street Corridor.

Given this formal request, I would ask that Victoria Council allow City staff to meet with Oak Bay Council (and through that process inform residents of Oak Bay) to present the proposed design and answer questions. From that discussion Council, informed by staff, may have some constructive input into the approach for this corridor and its connection with Oak Bay infrastructure. It will also help inform and potentially adjust our capital project priorities. Depending on your current expected timelines, this may require a pause in the consideration process until such consultation is completed. Please be assured that Oak Bay will treat this process as a priority to help Victoria avoid unnecessary delays.

Thank you for your consideration of Oak Bay Council's request. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and to further dialogue with the City on this very important infrastructure project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Murdoch, Mayor
District of Oak Bay



cc L. Varela, Chief Administrative Officer
 D. Horan, Director of Engineering and Public Works
 Oak Bay Council