



Council Member Motion

For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of October 9, 2014

Date: October 3, 2014

From: Councillors Alto and Madoff

Subject: Reviewing Criteria for Neighbourhood Crosswalk Installation

The City of Victoria's conventional assessment criteria for crosswalk installation do not consider the neighbourhood context, or the demographics of the local user population, in particular the unique needs of the elderly, young, frail, or people with disabilities.

One example of this gap in criteria for assessing crosswalk placement can be found in the 3000 block of Cedar Hill Road. At this location, residents of the Kiwanis Pavillion, a care facility for individuals with dementia, attempt to travel on foot between their facility and Oswald Park, across multiple lanes of 50-kph traffic.

A crosswalk at this location would support the City's guidelines for infrastructure that promote pedestrian travel and cycling, allow for shorter pedestrian crossing distances and increased visibility between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, and improve access of pedestrians to walking paths and public spaces.

Recommendation

That staff install a mid-block crosswalk across Cedar Hill Road leading from the Kiwanis Pavillion to the entrance to Oswald Park.

That staff review the existing criteria used to determine crosswalk installations, with a view to expanding those criteria to include consideration of neighbourhood users and community context.

Respectfully submitted

Handwritten signature of Marianne Alto in black ink.

Councillor Marianne Alto

Handwritten signature of Pamela Madoff in black ink.

Councillor Pamela Madoff

THE KIWANIS PAVILION

Care With Compassion

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To: Municipal Council
#1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC

From: Oak Bay Kiwanis Pavilion
3034 Cedar Hill Road
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Date: September 3rd, 2014

Re: Request to consider a pedestrian Controlled Crosswalk Crossing on Cedar Hill Road
between Oswald Park and the Oak Bay Kiwanis Pavilion

Dear Mayor and Council,

Your Worship,

We are writing to you today to request your consideration of placing a **controlled crosswalk crossing** in the Oakland's neighbourhood on Cedar Hill Road between Oswald Park and the Oak Bay Kiwanis Pavilion. The crosswalk request follows the guidelines as identified in the City of Victoria Corporate Strategic Plan supporting infrastructure that promotes pedestrian travel and cycling. The crosswalk will allow for shorter pedestrian crossing distances and increased visibility between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. This physical infrastructure request will enhance community well being in the neighbourhood by improving access of pedestrians to walking paths and services.

The Oak Bay Kiwanis Pavilion is a complex care facility specializing in dementia care with the capacity for 122 residents. We have been part of the Oakland's neighbourhood since 1980 when the facility was completed and during this time we have seen many positive changes to the area including residential and commercial growth, park and walking trail upgrades and infrastructure upgrades to the sidewalks and parking areas etc.

With the growth in the area as well as the growth in Saanich to the north, Cedar Hill Road has had a significant increase in traffic commuting from Victoria and Saanich. This increase has affected access for our seniors and neighbours to the parks and other services provided in the Oakland's Neighbourhood as they are hindered by the lack of street crossings in the blocks from Cook Street to North Dairy. Residents in these blocks are limited to two crosswalks, one at Cook and Cedar Hill Roads and the other at Cedar Hill Road and North Dairy Road. The distance between these two crosswalks is a little over a half kilometer or five blocks. Taking your chances with the traffic is currently the only crossing option between these blocks, and we feel a very unsafe one for not only our residents, but also for the Oakland's Neighbourhood citizens.

In July 2012, with the input of the community through two public hearings, the City of Victoria completed park upgrades to Oswald Park which included: a new central plaza and seating area with benches, more seating throughout the park, a drinking fountain and bike racks, a widened main pathway and asphalt surfacing of the perimeter paths, more shade trees, a multi-use sports court, a re-located play area with new equipment, improved drainage and rain gardens, and fencing to separate the dog off-leash area from the rest of the park. The park has a pathway that leads from Stroud Street through Oswald Park to the Oswald Park parking lot where it abruptly ends. This walking/cycling path has significant value to residents and cyclists as they can stay off of the busy Cedar Hill Road and access many parts of the Oakland's Neighbourhood through the quieter streets and paths. Unfortunately, the path through the park does not continue with a street crossing for pedestrians across Cedar Hill Road, mid-block, to allow the residents west of Cedar Hill Road an access to the park and other services in the neighbourhood.

The road speed in this area is 50Km per hour and is a downhill, straight road through to the next light at North Dairy. There is full residential parking on the east side of the road and two hour parking along the west side of the road. A controlled crosswalk with signage will provide some traffic calming in the area as drivers are made aware of the potential for pedestrians crossing.

The Kiwanis Pavilion and Kiwanis Village residents attempt road crossings at all hours of the day. Most no longer drive so they must walk to their destination, using the pathway from Cook Street through the Kiwanis Village and Pavilion across Cedar Hill Road to gain access to the Oswald Park walking path that will connect them with services provided at Hillside Mall and the medical buildings on Hillside. The residents of the Kiwanis Pavilion are escorted by their families and our staff to use the therapeutic benefits of Oswald Park and there are many mid-block crossings taking place every day because of the distance between crosswalks in this stretch of road.

We are asking that you consider a **controlled crosswalk crossing** between Oswald Park and The Kiwanis Pavilion on Cedar Hill Road as it provides the most direct route to the park and services you have provided to the community. This controlled crossing will enable a continuum of the Oswald Park pathway to meet the goals of your 2013 - 2015 City of Victoria Corporate Strategic Plan, supporting infrastructure that promotes pedestrian travel and cycling. (See Appendix A) We also have garnered the support of the Oakland neighbours in the form of a petition which we have attached as Appendix B. There are 89 residential addresses in the surrounding streets of Cedar Hill road, Cook and Lang streets. When we canvassed the neighbourhood over three Saturdays in September we were able to achieve contact with 67% of the neighbours and of that 67% 100% signed the petition to request a controlled crossing. We are presenting Committee of the Whole today with 228 signatures in support of a controlled crosswalk on Cedar Hill road accessing the walking paths of Gosworth Park and the Oaklands neighbourhood.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Dave Cockle
Kiwanis Pavilion Board Chair