

July 3, 2012

To: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Central Vancouver Island
Attention: Johnathan Tillie – Operations Manager

On behalf of the Gabriola Chamber of Commerce, Gabriola Ratepayers Assn. and Gabriola Transportation Assn. I'd like to thank you again for attending our public meeting on June 18, 2012 to discuss roads and related issues on Gabriola. We have reviewed the discussion and wish to record our view that the following should be afforded a high degree of priority in your forthcoming work program:

A. Maintenance Items

1. While you are repainting the center and side lines on all the roads, we suggest the following improvements to the North Road ferry hill bike/pedestrian lane:
 - re-paint the lane markers and widen the bike/pedestrian lane on the up-hill side as much as possible, leaving the required traffic lane of 3.30 m not 3.60 m, which is what it is in most locations on the up-hill traffic lane. (Other parts of North Rd. are 3.30 m or less.)
 - add markings to identify the bike/pedestrian lane (paint on pedestrian and cyclist symbols at several locations) and to deter parking on the shoulder lane.
2. A greater effort needs to be made to ensure that the few road-shoulder pedestrian/bike lanes that exist (South side of North Rd on ferry hill, South Rd. from the junction with North Rd. to Lochinvar Lane, Lochinvar Lane from South to North Rds., parts of North Rd. in the village area) are kept clean – once a year is not nearly enough. They should be swept at least monthly from October 1st through May 31st. Shoulders that are covered with needles and sand and gravel are not safe for cyclists or pedestrians.
3. Confirmation is requested that Jervis Inlet gravel will be used in future instead of Texada gravel.
4. We acknowledge the good efforts regarding snow removal this past winter and spring mowing (using saw blades, not rotary mower) and lack of tree removal.

B. Capital Items

1. Consider traffic calming measures for the Gabriola Village area, such as a reduced speed limit (suggest 40 Km), traffic circles and/or four way stop at Lochinvar and North Roads, to improve pedestrian safety and help encourage the public to walk along the road shoulders. It would be very helpful if you could provide us with a work program indicating the steps that will be taken in your evaluation and consideration of the alternatives.

2. Review the intersection alignment of Easthom Road and North Road and consider a crosswalk to provide safety for pedestrians heading to/from the ferry.
3. Review intersection of Taylor Bay and North Roads to improve traffic flow, including difficult left turns (a) onto Taylor Bay off the ferry and (b) from Taylor Bay onto North Road.
4. Review North Road at Silva Bay where a very narrow, blind curve, hill, concrete barrier and hidden driveway are an urgent safety concern.
5. Review Taylor Bay Road hill to McConvey Road, a steep hill with curves and visibility issues at both top and bottom of hill. If possible, ensure 1.2 metre width for more than one person travelling and ensure on-shoulder paving around rock outcrop. Centre line could be shifted northwest at McConvey Road to allow for paving of shoulder for cycle path on southeast.
6. Review Taylor Bay, Davis, King and Berry Point intersection with a view to removal of vegetation along the road allowance.
7. Review Norwich and Clarendon intersection between two hills, both with dips that prevent cyclists or drivers from seeing vehicles in dip.
8. Review Easthom Road, the very tight curve between ferry terminal and roadside parking after curve where the road narrows to a single vehicle lane.
9. Review road slippages (a) on Taylor Bay along ferry lineup (b) Brickyard hill and (c) Barrett hill.
10. Consider new section of chip seal on Rollo Road near Rollo-McClay park to eliminate dust problem from high volume vehicle traffic.

We will look forward to advice from you as to progress on these items, and will review the outstanding ones further at our next meeting, planned for the late Fall of this year.

In closing, please send an email notification of future stakeholder meetings to transportation@gabriola.org

Yours truly,

Jim Ramsay,
President, Gabriola Transportation Association

Cc: Islands Trust Local Trustees, RDN Director Area B, Fire Chief