



REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

PRESENTED: SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 - SPECIAL MEETING
FROM: ENGINEERING DIVISION
SUBJECT: 62A CRESCENT TRAFFIC CONCERNS

REPORT: 08-148
FILE: 5460-4/1

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the 62A Crescent Traffic Concerns report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Concerns have been expressed by a local resident on 62A Crescent with traffic and speeding between 64 Avenue and 240 Street.

The Township of Langley has adopted a "Three E's" approach of Enforcement, Engineering, and Education to address traffic concerns in residential areas. Enforcement is through the RCMP and Education is typically through the SpeedWatch program. The collision history of five incidents in five years indicates there are no significant traffic safety concerns on this road.

Despite the lack of evidence towards a significant collision history, as a local road, 62A Crescent between 64 Avenue and 240 Street is eligible for traffic calming measures. As per Council policy "Neighbourhood Traffic Calming: 05-763" the person requesting traffic calming must initiate the process and submit a petition with 66% community support in favour of traffic calming measures being implemented.

As per Council policy, a letter has been sent to the local resident outlining the options available including Enforcement, Education and Engineering measures. If the resident chooses to pursue traffic calming, a sample petition and the study area has been provided for information.

PURPOSE:

To inform Council of the traffic safety concerns on 62A Crescent between 64 Avenue and 240 Street and to update council on the potential measures including traffic calming.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Concerns have been expressed by a local resident on 62A Crescent with traffic and speeding between 64 Avenue and 240 Street. Following an appearance by the local resident as a delegation to Council, the following Council motion was carried on June 23, 2006.

“Whereas significant traffic safety concerns exist in the neighbourhood of 62A Crescent between 240 Street and 64 Avenue, as described by Mr. Don Nundal in his delegation to Council on June 9, 2008;”

“Therefore be it resolved that staff investigate the matter and report back within 30 days on a plan for traffic calming in this neighbourhood, including the feasibility of speed bumps, related cots, and timelines for implementation.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The Township of Langley has adopted a "Three E's" approach of Enforcement, Engineering, and Education to address traffic concerns in residential areas. Each of these approaches is outlined below.

Enforcement

The "E" of Enforcement is provided by the RCMP who is responsible for all regulatory speed enforcement in the Township. As it is individual driver behaviour that governs vehicle speed, enforcement is the most logical, flexible and immediate tool to address speeding in our community. Direct police involvement is the most effective way to address these driving offences that are ticketable under the law.

Additionally, residents who observe reckless driving behaviour can contact the RCMP directly to report speeding complaints at 604-532-3200. In order for the RCMP to utilize their staff in the most effective manner, specific information should be provided such as, the time of day, vehicle make/model, and license plate information of the offending vehicle, if possible.

Education

For Education, The Township of Langley supports the utilization of an educational program called SpeedWatch that is conducted in partnership with the RCMP, trained citizen volunteers, and ICBC. Volunteers monitor speeds in neighbourhoods and raise public awareness of the actual speeds that drivers are travelling by using portable radar equipment and an electronic digital board. Drivers get an instant readout of their speed as it is displayed on a readerboard as they pass by. This program can have a powerful impact on driver behaviour, but the success of this program depends on members of the community volunteering their time. If residents are interested in volunteering for this valuable initiative, they can contact their local community police office.

Engineering

Township Council has adopted a Traffic Calming policy that outlines the conditions under which traffic calming devices (such as speed bumps) can be implemented. Due to the nature of traffic calming measures, community support must be obtained before traffic calming measures will be considered. A full traffic assessment and community consultation must also take place, including the collection of speed and volume data that will be compared to typical similar roadways in Langley. If, after we have completed our review, we find that the traffic volume or speeds are abnormally high, we would then be in a position to review the causes and to develop solutions. Following this process ensures that we do not overreact by committing funds toward traffic calming or diversion measures when they are not warranted, thereby acting as good financial stewards.

Collision History

A review of the collision history on 62A Crescent from 64 Avenue to 240 Street was undertaken between the years 2003 to 2007. There were a total of five collisions within a five year period. Of these collisions, two were at the intersection of 62A Crescent/64 Avenue with one of those involving an animal. Of the remaining three collisions, one involved icy roads and two involved avoiding an animal. The collision history indicates that there are no significant road or traffic safety issues on the roadway.

With a total of five collisions in a five year period, the road segment of 62A Crescent between 64 Avenue and 240 Street would be a low priority for any further safety improvements.

Traffic Calming Policy

Despite the low crash history, if a local resident chooses to initiate traffic calming within their neighbourhood, the Engineering Department follows the Council approved policy which outlines the following steps:

- Initiation by written request, which has occurred in this case.
- Determine if the road is eligible for traffic calming which in this case as local road traffic calming would be permitted.
- Defining the study area and providing the person requesting traffic calming with a plan of the proposed area and a sample petition.
- The person requesting traffic calming submit a petition with a minimum of 66% of the total households and businesses in the area supporting traffic calming for any further action to be taken.
- Due to the nature and impact of traffic calming measures, the Township will not proceed further unless there is significant community support.
- If there is support, staff will support a Public Review Process to consider appropriate measures for the area and determine public support for these measures. This review will also include additional traffic counts and speed surveys to determine the appropriateness of the measures.
- Following the traffic assessment and review process, staff will report back to Council.

62A Crescent Traffic Calming Request

Despite the low collision history, staff has provided the local resident with a sample petition and study area for his use in obtaining community support for traffic calming as per the Council motion as shown in Attachment A. The area is defined by including the local streets or other properties which would reasonably be expected to use the roadway where traffic calming is being requested. As 62A Crescent services several other dead end roads and the local community, those areas have been included in the petition area.

Upon receipt of a petition with sufficient community support staff will initiate a public review process and begin examining alternative options.

Applicable Policies:

Neighbourhood Traffic Calming: 05-763

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Cordeiro
MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING
for
ENGINEERING DIVISION

ATTACHMENT A Traffic Calming Study Area Map And Petition – 62A Crescent

ATTACHMENT A

Traffic Calming Petition Study Area: 62A Crescent



