



Dr. Andrew Weaver MLA
Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Via E-Mail to: mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria,

I am writing to you to express my profound concern regarding your proposed forthcoming developments for Richardson Street at the Foul Bay junction. As you will know, the junction where Richardson Street meets Foul Bay resides squarely in the riding of Oak Bay Gordon Head which I represent.

I understand that Council has unilaterally decided that it wishes to restrict traffic to only 500 cars per day along Richardson Road without consulting with the District of Oak Bay. To meet this arbitrary target, council decided to close off Richardson Street at Foul Bay and hence only allow bike traffic through the intersection.

Richardson Road is one of only two main roads that connect south Oak Bay (where a substantial number of civil servants live) and downtown Victoria. While I applaud your efforts to create more biking infrastructure for the City of Victoria, I remind you that Victoria is surrounded by neighbouring communities and any traffic flow changes have significant concomitant regional consequences. In addition, for many people living in south Oak Bay, cycling is not an option. In my view, it is not appropriate for your council to proceed with this project without formally referring this proposal to the District of Oak Bay for comment.

As you will also know, Oak Bay is planning to expand their active transportation infrastructure. They are in the midst of ongoing consultation and planning. It strikes me as both a missed opportunity and inappropriate for you not to consult with them on your plans. My recommendation to government is that provincial funding requests for the Richardson Corridor project not be considered until such time as said consultation is completed.

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I am not sure what, if any, regional traffic flow modelling your council has done on the proposed closure of this intersection. Nevertheless, as someone who was born and grew up in Victoria, I would suggest that all that this will do is divert traffic from South Oak Bay to Fairfield Road. This will greatly increase traffic on side streets throughout the area. As you know, Fairfield Road passes two elementary schools: Margaret Jenkins and Sir James Douglas. This substantially increased traffic flow on Fairfield Road presents a very real, increased danger to the elementary school students. In addition, the substantially increased traffic on the side streets also presents a very real, increased danger to children. Fairfield Road also meanders by Ross Bay Cemetery, Fairfield Plaza and Hollywood Park. In many places, it is very narrow and very busy. Richardson Road, on the other hand, could easily handle separated bike lanes.

I recognize that Victoria Council might counter that they expect traffic to come along Oak Bay Avenue instead. I would suggest that this is certainly not a given as Oak Bay Council is presently exploring traffic options in the Oak Bay Village to make it more pedestrian friendly. In essence, this is precisely why consultation with neighbouring communities is imperative.

Thank you in advance for considering this request that you enter into consultation with the District of Oak Bay in advance of proceeding with the closure of Richardson Road at Foul Bay.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Weaver
MLA Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Cc: BC Minister of Transportation (minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca)
BC Minister of Environment (env.minister@gov.bc.ca)
BC Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (mah.minister@gov.bc.ca)
Oak Bay Mayor and Council (mayor@oakbay.ca, obcouncil@oakbay.ca)