

MEMORANDUM

June 2, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Director of Operations, Mayor's Office
Paul Storer, Director of Transportation
Winston Chou, Manager of Traffic Data & Management

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Protecting People on Cornwall Avenue and the Yew Open Street Pilot Project

RTS#: 15762 & 15763

This memo provides information on the April 26th, 2023 Council motion, RTS 15762 & 15763 - Protecting People on Cornwall, which directs staff to extend the Schools on Arterials Slow Zones pilot further west from Henry Hudson Elementary on Cornwall. It also provides an update on the upcoming Yew Open Street Pilot.

Speed Limit Reduction on Cornwall Avenue

On June 22nd, 2021 Council directed staff to consult with the community and report back on the feasibility of a reduced speed limit and improved signage adjacent schools on Commercial Dr (RTS 148598 Amendments to the Posted Speed Limit on Arterials and Collector Streets Adjacent to School Zones).

Based on the motion, staff implemented the Schools on Arterial Slow Zones pilot at nine elementary schools in spring 2023. At these schools, speed limits were reduced during school hours (8AM – 5PM school days) to 30 km/h on collector streets and 40 km/h on non-MRN

arterial streets. Staff are monitoring the pilot and, if successful, will expand the program to additional schools on collectors and non-MRN arterials. Staff will also review the possibilities on some MRN roads.

The Arterial Slow Zones pilot includes a speed reduction to 40 km/h during school hours at Henry Hudson Elementary on Cornwall Ave between Cypress St and Maple St. As per the motion passed by Council on April 26th, 2023, staff will be making the following changes on Cornwall Ave:

- Extending the 40 km/h zone to include the portion of Cornwall Ave between Trafalgar St to Cypress St;
- Updating the existing signage to make the 40 km/h zone in effect at all times (speed limit reduction is currently only in effect during school times), and;
- Installing speed limit signs with accompanying speed limit pavement markings on each block to increase motorist awareness.

Staff will be undertaking data collection to inform additional changes, as noted in Council's April 26th motion, for consideration in summer 2024. Staff are also reviewing possibilities for protected bike lanes along that section of Cornwall Ave.

Yew Open Streets Pilot

Given interest heard from the businesses along Yew St for a car-free street for pedestrians, staff plan to pilot closing Yew St between Cornwall Ave and W 1st Ave to motor vehicles this summer. This is expected to be in place before July and continue for at least a month, which may be adjusted as staff review feedback and monitor the impacts.

The unique feature of the Yew Open Street Pilot is that it will allow loading activity in the morning and early afternoon, but allow the same space to be used for walking, rolling, and gathering in the evening. This shared use is planned to be coordinated using primarily signage rather than daily operational interventions such as a moving barricades or utilizing traffic management personnel.

Vehicle loading to support businesses activities and general access for residents will be allowed before 10AM in the morning on Saturday and Sunday and before 4PM from Monday to Friday. During these times, vehicles will be able to access Yew St on intersecting laneways and egress onto Cornwall Ave, York Ave and W 1st Avenue. After 10AM on weekends and 4PM on weekdays, Yew St between Cornwall Ave and W 1st Ave will only be available for walking, rolling and gathering. To reduce inadvertent or unnecessary use of Yew St by vehicles, no access from Cornwall Ave, York Ave, or W 1st Avenue will be allowed at any time.

To facilitate the Pilot, motor vehicle traffic on York Ave between Yew St and Vine St will be reversed from one-way eastbound to one-way westbound.

A map illustrating the proposed changes can be found in Appendix A.

This pilot will remove the westbound to southbound left turn onto Yew Street which will make it more difficult for vehicles to access this area - in particular, the recently installed westbound to southbound left turn restriction at Arbutus St and Cornwall Ave to address left-turn collisions and resident concerns. Staff plan to retain and monitor the restriction at Arbutus St.

To inform nearby businesses and residents of this project, staff will be mailing a notification to residents in the area bounded by Cornwall Ave, Vine St, W 3rd Ave and Arbutus St; erecting signage at the site approximately two weeks prior to the closures taking place; connecting with businesses; and creating a web page to provide more detailed information. Staff will also be monitoring the impact of the pilot and making adjustments as necessary.

The lessons learned from this pilot will be used to inform future changes to Yew St as well as other locations across the city, helping the City achieve its public space goals.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions about these initiatives.



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Appendix A

Yew Open Street Pilot Project

