

Considered at June 23, 2020 Special Council Meeting

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City of Port Moody Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: May 22, 2020
Submitted by: Transportation Committee
Subject: Slow Streets

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding a resolution passed by the Transportation Committee to propose the implementation of Slow Streets and Road Reallocation in Port Moody.

Recommended Resolution

THAT the report dated May 22, 2020 from the Transportation Committee regarding Slow Streets be received for information.

Background

At the May 20, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the General Manager of Engineering and Operations regarding the modifications to City operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee passed the following resolution:

TC20/010

THAT the City consider implementing temporary slow zones and reallocating parking or other road spaces in key locations to prioritize pedestrian and cyclists where feasible.

Discussion

The General Manager of Engineering and Operations advised that with many people working remotely and families being at home, staff monitoring has indicated there was an initial decrease in vehicle traffic volumes on arterial roads, which has begun to creep back towards normal traffic volumes during some hours of the day. In addition, observations suggest that there has been an increase in physical activity and the use of sidewalks, paths, and trails. This increase in active transportation may continue due to continued working from home, public concerns with transit use, and physical distancing. Further, with the Provincial restart program under way, use of all modes of transportation and activity in the streets may increase further.

The Committee noted that some areas in Port Moody do not allow for safe physical distancing due to the width of the sidewalks, and it could create potential concerns of conflicts for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

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The Committee noted that the City of Oakland Slow Streets Program supports safe physical activity by creating more space for physical distancing. The Program has closed low traffic streets to through traffic so that residents can more comfortably use the streets for physically distant walking, biking, and other activities. The Committee made note of the many areas where this Slow Streets Program could be implemented in Port Moody to help residents feel safer, reduce conflict, and promote physical activity during the pandemic.

Staff, via the Emergency Operations Centre, have started implementation of a slow zone on Alderside Road in response to public concerns and staff monitoring which confirmed very high pedestrian and cyclist use of the road during these times. This change on Alderside is an example of the types of initiatives that would be consistent with the Committee's recommendation.

Other Options

1. THAT the report dated May 22, 2020 from the Transportation Committee regarding Slow Streets be referred to staff for information.
2. THAT the report dated May 22, 2020 from the Transportation Committee regarding Slow Streets be referred to staff for action.

Financial Implications

Further information on financial implications would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

Further information on communication and civic engagement requirements would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Supporting the requests for the implementation of Slow Streets in Port Moody aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan Objective of providing people with a variety of options to move through and around Port Moody safely and efficiently.

Report Author

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Slow Streets.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 1, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - May 26, 2020 - 10:42 AM

Angie Parnell, General Manager of Corporate Services - May 26, 2020 - 2:52 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - May 26, 2020 - 3:28 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - May 26, 2020 - 3:55 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jun 1, 2020 - 1:54 PM