



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

Type	POLICY	Policy No	POL – 1803
Title	Council Policy re. Highway 99 Through Lions Bay		
Author	CAO, P. DeJong	Reviewed By:	
Date	December 12, 2018	Version	1

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance for staff, Council and the general public with respect to Council policy regarding Highway 99 through Lions Bay.

Background

Highway 99 has always been an integral part of Lions Bay, providing road access to early developers and residents, with through traffic to Squamish, Whistler and points beyond becoming increasingly significant over the years. It is a Provincial highway over which the Village of Lions Bay has no jurisdiction.

The hosting of the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in 2010 provided the Province with impetus for substantial upgrades to the highway, with resultant impacts to the Village. In anticipation of those impacts, the Municipality formed a Highway Advisory Group committee which lobbied the Provincial Government over several years in order to reduce those impacts to the extent possible.

In February, 2017, the Municipality and the Province entered into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a number of issues, including some having to do with Highway 99. The MOU begins with the following:

WHEREAS:

- A. The ministry consulted with Lions Bay at the time of the Highway 99 Sea to Sky Highway Improvement Project and provided the following improvements to mitigate issues expected to arise as a result of the expanded corridor through the Lions Bay community:



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1. Context Sensitive Standards, which included design elements such as vegetative medians and noise reduction pavement through Lions Bay;
 2. Reduced speed limits in accordance with reduced design speeds through Lions Bay;
 3. Noise barriers in key locations along the highway right of way through Lions Bay;
- B. Notwithstanding these mitigation measures, the Sea to Sky Highway Improvement Project has had a substantive impact on Lions Bay.
- C. The ministry and Lions Bay are in agreement that changes to the corridor are worth considering to further improve the safety of the motoring public and reduce Highway 99's impact on the Lions Bay community.

In addition to the Province replacing the vegetative median from Alberta Creek to Brunswick Beach with concrete barriers to improve safety on that stretch of Highway 99, the following items were also included in the MOU:

5. The ministry will assess the appropriate speed and speed transition zones through Lions Bay and share its findings with Lions Bay. This will include potential recommendations for furthering safety enhancements that will help to enforce speed limits through the corridor. All information and findings will be shared with Lions Bay for further consideration.
6. The ministry will work with Lions Bay to improve the incident management protocol for the Highway 99 corridor.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has shared a 2017 study by Urban Systems of speeds through Lions Bay and has modelled an increase of the lowest speed limit from 60 to 70 km/h, which has been approved by MOTI's chief engineer. It is understood the expectation of MOTI is that the change from 60 to 70 km/h will lead to a greater consistency of the range of actual speeds of drivers without increasing that range, and potentially decreasing the range. Consistency of driver speeds is a safety enhancement consideration.

A key strategic initiative of enforcing a reasonable range of speeds through Lions Bay is the promotion of Average Speed Over Distance (ASOD) technology, which records a license plate at points A and B with the acceptable time between the two points based on an accepted speed limit. This enforcement tool has been very successful in several jurisdictions around the world



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and has been promoted to Provincial officials over the past couple of years by a few local governments in BC, including Lions Bay.

Existing Council policy with respect to Highway 99 matters is contained within the two following resolutions from October 17, 2017 and March 20, 2018:

October 17, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

Moved/Seconded

THAT as a result of recent discussion between Mayor and the Ministry of Transport (MOTI), Council requests MOTI:

1. To evaluate and if so indicated effect removal of the 60 km/h speed zone on Highway 99 through Lions Bay, paying particular attention to the efficacy of the sound reduction pavement, on the following grounds as understood by Council on a non-expert basis:
 - a. Recent MOTI review has shown that 60 km/h is not being observed by the expected 85 percent of traffic for the given combination of road configuration, driving conditions and drivers. The 85th percentile speed, used by highway managers to determine the speed at which the majority of traffic is comfortable driving at, in fact ranges from 110 to 85 km/h through Lions Bay depending on measurement location. Current accident rates, noise levels and journey times are thus being achieved at these speeds, not 60.
 - b. While 60 might be too slow, 110 is too fast, given the disproportionate accident rates at Lions Bay, so the 70 km/h zone that would result from removal of the 60 zone might produce better compliance, as being more believable on a road the average road user may perceive to be an expressway.
 - c. On and off ramp lengths are understood to be technically adequate for a posted 70 km/h limit.
 - d. One fewer speed zone may produce less variability in speeds, a primary cause of accidents.
 - e. A reduction in noise of deceleration and acceleration, particularly of motorcycles, might be expected.
2. To evaluate extending the 70 km/h zone to 200 meters beyond the north and south municipal boundaries to move acceleration and deceleration further from residences, with relocation of speed-change warning signage to standard distances, or possibly to two warning signs in each direction.



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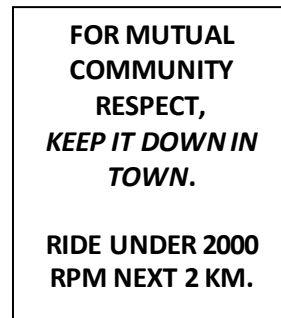
3. Prior to and independent of potential removal of the 60 km/h zone, to institute noise measuring at the existing dynamic sign location for an extended period, with a view to determining correlations between comparative noise level and a) speed, b) time of year, week and day, c) weather and road conditions, and other such considerations as may be relevant.
4. To add appropriate signage, whether via Manual of Standard Traffic Signs guidelines or ad hoc, that might:
 - a. Mitigate noise, particularly from cooperative motorcyclists who may be otherwise unaware that the noise from 500-1000 motorcycles every fine weather day can be a burden on nearby residents, akin to:



or



or better yet ,



- b. Inform road users that despite appearances, 99 at Lions Bay is not an expressway, akin to:



CARRIED

March 20, 2018 Regular Council Meeting **Moved/Seconded**

THAT the Mayor is authorized to submit for consideration of the LMLGA a resolution seeking support for the use of average-speed-over-distance technology to explicitly control driving speeds in designated BC highway safety corridors such as Highway 99 through Lions Bay.

CARRIED
COUNCILLOR HUGHES OPPOSED



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Updated Council Policy re. Highway 99 Through Lions Bay

1. Safety enhancement and noise mitigation in relation to Highway 99 through the Village of Lions Bay remain the two highest concerns for the Municipality re. Highway 99.
2. Average Speed Over Distance (ASOD) as a means to address safety and noise considerations is strongly supported by the Municipality.
3. The Municipality urges the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and the Ministry of the Solicitor General to adopt ASOD with a trial of the program through the Village of Lions Bay.
4. The Municipality requests that MOTI conduct detailed noise measuring studies at key locations through the Village of Lions Bay immediately and at reasonable intervals thereafter, particularly with a view to determining correlations between comparative noise level and (a) speed, (b) time of year, week and day, (c) weather and road conditions, and (d) other such considerations as may be relevant.
5. Notwithstanding that MOTI supports an increase of the base speed limit through the Village of Lions Bay from 60 km/h to 70 km/h, the Municipality opposes any increase in the base speed limit of 60 km/h through the Village.
6. The Municipality requests that MOTI review existing and potential signage for Highway 99 with the objective of reducing noise, particularly from motorcycles and trucks.

Adopted by Council:	December 18, 2018
Updated:	

Peter DeJong, Corporate Officer