



VILLAGE UPDATE

Saturday, February 25, 2017

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay,

You may have noticed something going on today at Brunswick Hill. Mayor and Council joined MLA Jordan Sturdy and others to announce that significant safety changes are going to be made this spring to fall on Highway 99 at Lions Bay. MOTI, the Ministry of Transportation & infrastructure, will be replacing the planted median, all the way north from the Alberta Creek bridge to the Brunswick Road interchange, with reflective concrete median barriers. The B.C. government is investing \$800,000 in this important safety improvement project for Highway 99, which will start in April and complete in the fall.

If you've been following public opinion on this issue, you will know that safety improvements have been called for. While a concrete barrier may not necessarily affect the number of incidents, it should decrease their severity and prevent cross-over accidents. Highway 99 incidents affect lives across the region, and increasingly overtax Lions Bay Fire Rescue. About 67 percent of our call-out hours are spent on the highway, up from about 50 percent as recently as two years ago.

MOTI has granted Lions Bay \$20,000 to develop a landscaping plan to repurpose trees and shrubs from the median, and will supply and place trees and shrubs according to the plan. We've appreciated MOTI's consultation regarding this change, and the opportunity to provide input. In addition to the funded landscape plan, MOTI and their engineers and contractors will:

- Assess the appropriate speed and speed transition zones through Lions Bay and share their 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.
- Maintain berms and ramps within the Village to an agreed standard, eliminating the current demands on Public Works time and safety
- Support our application for a License of Occupation at Upper Brunswick as part of a possible move of the Public Works Yard there (thus freeing up the current site for development as called for in our OCP)
- Review, and if possible, provide for an improved pedestrian walking space on the side of the southbound on-ramp from the intersection of Lions Bay Avenue and Isleview Place to the beginning of the Kelvin Grove Trail
- Survey wildfire fuel buildup in the extra-wide highway right-of-way (completed) and liaise when using Lions Bay water to ensure compliance with our conservation levels
- Enforce no parking in MOTI right of way
- Reconnect the Kelvin Grove street lighting disabled during the 2010 upgrades, and
- Install a highway webcam at Lions Bay.

This request from the province was debated at length by Council, which obviously recognises that Lions Bay lobbied long and hard to secure the landscaped median. But in the end, given the cooperation on several matters, we felt that endorsing MOTI's plan was the right thing to do. There will still be a landscaped median south of the Village, and we have MOTI prepped for the next step, examining speed control and enforcement options in the Lions Bay corridor.

Regards,
Karl Buhr



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

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