

Marion Smith

6580 Mayflower Drive, Richmond, BC V7C 3X6

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February 12, 2006

Attention: Director, City Clerk's office
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Sir:

RE: Bylaw 7975: closure of portion of River Road

The intent of this bylaw is to close part of River Road in order to build a plaza between the Olympic Oval and the Middle Arm dike. The City of Richmond also plans to make major road changes in this area, including the extension of Lansdowne Road to Hollybridge, the re-routing of River Road around the south side of the Oval, and the development of a north ring road aligned along the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way. Also in the future, the City plans to close the remaining portion of River Road from Hollybridge to Capstan Way.

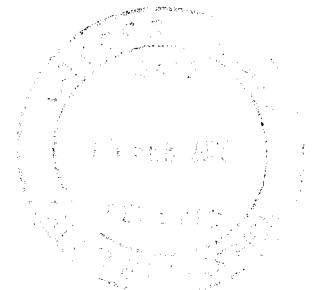
8060-20-7975

The City would be well-advised to keep its River Road options open, given future traffic demands. Much of Richmond's town centre planning assumes that new residents will not use private vehicles. However, even without any new residential units completed west of No. 3 Road, there has been a noticeable increase in traffic on Westminster Highway, No. 2 Road and Railway since the closure of River Road between No. 2 Road and Hollybridge. It is not uncommon to see west-bound traffic on Westminster, in the No. 2 Road left-turn lane, backed up to Elmbridge Way, effectively turning this portion of Westminster into a one-lane thoroughfare. The City has seriously underestimated the amount of traffic carried by River Road, and the resulting impact that the closure of River Road has had on other streets west and south of the area. This traffic is not going to disappear: it represents people who currently live and work in Richmond.

1. The City of Richmond would be well-advised to plan the parking under the Olympic Oval plaza in such a way that this portion of River Road could be re-opened and used as a through-road in the future. There is no reason why traffic could not be routed under the Oval plaza.
2. One of the great joys of living in Richmond is the North Shore view along River Road between Hollybridge and Capstan Way. Unfortunately city planning rarely considers the social and spiritual values of place. Remember how, in the 1980s, the city council of the day could not see the value of Terra Nova as undeveloped space. Now, we are all glad that a portion of Terra Nova was saved for public use. Retaining this dike-side River Road drive for public use and enjoyment will be just as valued in the future. Please appreciate that very few Richmondites live in view housing, so a dike-side drive with a wonderful view has immense value to us. Please do not deny residents and visitors the benefits of a roadway view by replacing River Road with high-density highrises.

Sincerely,

Marion Smith



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CityClerk

From: John Watt [barbjohn@shaw.ca]
Sent: Saturday, 11 February 2006 11:30 AM
To: CityClerk
Subject: road closure

City Clerk:

I object most strongly to the proposed closure of that section of River Road between No. 2 Road and Hollybridge Way. This was not in the original announcements or designs that were disclosed to the public regarding the building of the Olympic Oval and I believe that this closure will inconvenience too many people to be practical. Are you forcing drivers to go back onto No. 3 Road? 8060-20-7975

More and more people are moving into Richmond to live and this City cannot afford to lose a road that helps to alleviate the traffic mess in the City core. It's bad enough with all these "experts" from the Council spending over half a million of taxpayers dollars to go to Italy, but now they want to screw up the traffic flow as well. Once that road goes, it will be never be opened again, even after the Olympics have come and gone.

I urge the City to reconsider this silly proposal.

John Watt

