



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

*TO CS-MCW 15 2012*

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 2, 2012  
**From:** Phyllis L. Carlyle **File:**  
 General Manager, Law & Community Safety  
**Re:** Commercial Vehicle Traffic – 16000 Blk of River Road

### Staff Recommendation

That the proposed control and enforcement measures related to commercial vehicles on River Road as outlined in the staff report (dated April 2, 2012 by the General Manager of Law and Community Safety) be endorsed.

Phyllis L. Carlyle  
General Manager, Law & Community Safety  
(604.276.4104)

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<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>		<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Transportation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		<i>Phyllis L. Carlyle</i>
RCMP – Richmond Detachment	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO Deputy</b> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

During the open Council meeting of February 28, 2011, Council considered and adopted the following resolution:

*Enforcement matters related to trucks in the vicinity of 16540 River Road, on River Road or No. 7 Road, be referred to staff with a report back through the Community Safety Committee.*

The City of Richmond has received ongoing complaints in the area of the 16000 block of River Road and No. 7 Road for a number of years. Numerous collaborative steps have been taken by the RCMP and City staff to alleviate these ongoing issues with some success but the residents in the area are still noticing speeding vehicles, vehicles crossing the center line to turn and, in particular, large commercial vehicles disobeying a no turning sign at No. 7 Road.

### Analysis

Specifically, Council has in discussion identified the following items for consideration in this report:

1. Truck traffic on River Road
2. Overweight vehicles on River Road
3. Speeding vehicles on River Road
4. Trucks turning left from westbound River Road onto southbound No. 7 Road
5. Trucks crossing the solid center line and potentially into oncoming traffic

To mitigate some of these issues several measures have been taken by the City. The opening of the Nelson Road Interchange has triggered truck access restrictions in the area as well as speed reductions on Westminster Highway. These restrictions have become enforceable by the RCMP and City Bylaw Officers. This is in addition to the turning restrictions into and out of some businesses, weight restrictions and traffic calming speed humps already in place on River Road.

A number of these issues were referred to the RCMP for enforcement action with the collaborative assistance of the City's Community Bylaws staff. Several joint enforcement projects were undertaken by the RCMP and Community Bylaws in an attempt to address these issues.

River Road in the area of the 16000 block is a two-lane asphalt municipal roadway that allows for vehicle traffic in an easterly and westerly direction. The two opposing traffic lanes are divided by a double solid yellow line with a short section in the 19,000 block delineated by a broken centerline. The roadway for the most part from No. 6 Road easterly to No 7 Road and beyond has no shoulder and, in many areas, is bordered by a large, water-filled ditch on the south side and businesses or housing directly adjacent to the north edge. There is a single painted white line to define the roadway edges on both sides. The road surface is generally in good repair and is flat with some curves.

The area is not conducive to effective enforcement activities as there are very few areas to safely stop vehicles of any size especially large commercial vehicles.

In reference to the specific complaint areas:

### **1. Truck Traffic on River Road**

This particular stretch of River Rd has several legitimate businesses along the south side most catering to or requiring the attendance of large commercial vehicles. There are also a number of like businesses on the north side. During the regular work week, a wide variety of commercial vehicles do utilize this roadway. The overwhelming majority access the area via northbound No. 6 Road and exit the area via the same route.

- Recommendation to retain present access on this issue.

### **2. Overweight vehicles on River Road**

Between the intersections with No. 6 Road and No. 7 Road, there is no weight limit imposed on vehicles traveling on River Road. There is a 9-ton weight limit on River Road east of No. 7 Road for vehicles traveling through the area but this restriction does not apply to vehicles that are making local deliveries or pick ups. However, these vehicles are required to travel by the shortest route to the destination within the weight limited segment of River Road. As mentioned, the area does not allow for the safe stopping or weighing of vehicles due to the narrow roadways. In our enforcement activities there were no commercial vehicles stopped that did not have legitimate business on the roadway. Although there may be vehicles using this roadway that do not have business there, it is so sporadic that enforcement would have little affect on it.

- Recommendation to continue random enforcement of commercial vehicles in this area using RCMP and Community Bylaws staff.

### **3. Speeding vehicles on River Road**

The speed limit on River Road between No. 6 Road and No. 7 Road is posted 50 km/h for all vehicles. East of No. 7 Road there is a speed limit of 30 km/h for commercial vehicles only and a small stretch of residential properties that is posted 30 Km/h for all vehicles. This residential area has several speed humps installed as well. Several roving and static speed enforcement operations have been conducted along River Road. A number of violations have been issued mostly to private vehicles with few large commercial vehicles found in violation. The number of speeding violations noted is relatively small compared with the number of vehicles traveling the roadway.

- Recommendation to continue random enforcement operations for speed limits along this portion of River Road.

#### **4. Trucks turning left to southbound No. 7 Road (from westbound River Road)**

Commercial trucks over 9t are permitted to turn left from River Road to No.7 Road (westbound to southbound). There is no signage in place to restrict this movement. However, because of the new weight restriction on Westminster Hwy (between No.6 Road and Nelson Road), any southbound commercial truck on No. 7 Road must turn right onto Cambie Road and head westbound so that they do not continue to Westminster Hwy. Appropriate regulatory signage to direct this movement was installed last year.

- Recommendation to continue active enforcement of regulations at No. 7 Road and Cambie Road.

#### **5. Trucks crossing the center line and into oncoming traffic.**

This is a common type complaint with large commercial vehicles. On multiple lane roadways it is less of a problem; however, people often complain about trucks occupying multiple lanes to negotiate turns. River Road at this location is very narrow and the driveways into many of the businesses are bordered by large ditches making entering and exiting these businesses quite difficult for large trucks. The *Motor Vehicle Act* permits large commercial vehicles to occupy oncoming and adjacent lanes in order to safely negotiate corners. Often this is the only way a vehicle can make turns without striking a fixed object or ending up in a ditch.

- Recommendation to continue on-going enforcement to ensure that large commercial vehicles are using this procedure in a safe and proper manner.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

#### **Conclusion**

The Richmond detachment of the RCMP will continue to provide collaborative enforcement on a random basis along with staff from Community Bylaws in order to regulate the use of River Road and connecting roadways by commercial vehicles.



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WGM:wgm