

Public Works and Transportation Committee  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

My name is Trudy Haywood and I live at 22160 River Road.

Let me make this clear – I live on River Road full time, I drive the road every day, I pay tax to Richmond, which in turn pays your salary. I am not just a visitor to the road who in turn makes recommendations.

First of all I would like a yes or no answer to this question:  
Was it in the plans to put speed cushions on River Road before the cyclist was killed? If so, could you please advise me where I can read the minutes about the discussion.

Regarding the 44 signs along River Road which read  
Caution high cycling activity on weekends  
with a sign underneath which reads  
Single file change lanes to pass when safe  
and then a picture of a cyclist in front of a car

Those signs are incorrect. We saw only one cyclist go down our road last Sunday. On the Saturday there was two riding side by side on our road which is illegal under the Motor Vehicle Act. Large volumes of cyclists do not go down our road every weekend – it is sporadic. Most of these cyclists don't even live in Richmond so they don't pay taxes like we do. I feel that you listen to them (Hub Cycling, B.C Cycling, Velo Vets) and not the area residents.

1 fatal cyclist accident in the 40 years that I have lived on River Road should not change how we live on River Road. That accident was caused by driver inattention not speed.

Furthermore – I think everyone who has passed the B.C. drivers test knows to change lanes when safe - it's common sense. When you see signs that say change lanes when safe and the road is primarily double lines it makes you wonder who would have okayed putting these signs up? Even the consultant who did the report questioned the mixed message saying they were difficult to read and they are contradictory. Would it have not made more sense to first of all convert the

solid double yellow centreline to a dashed single yellow centreline at select locations before you put these signs up?

Regarding the speed cushions.

I asked Victor Wei where I could experience driving over speed cushions as he said they will be comfortable to go over. He is wrong. You can call them speed cushions, speed humps, speed bumps whatever you want but they are still big bumps on the road that are very uncomfortable to drive over especially for people with back problems, seniors, and anyone for that matter. I would like you all to experience what it is like. Please try driving over just 9 cushions on Gilbert Road south of Steveston Highway. Imagine going over up to 76 of these everyday of your life and that is just one way and then back over them all again to return home.

The independent consultant said speed cushions are deemed appropriate to accommodate emergency vehicles. He said that they are typically installed with gaps to allow wider wheelbase emergency vehicles more easy passage while still requiring passenger vehicles to ride over the hump. It was also stated that cyclists are not typically bothered by speed humps. With cyclists so called "taking the lane" by driving single file in the middle of the lane they will have the option of driving over the speed hump or using the gap in the cushion without adversely affecting other traffic. I think "taking the lane" on a narrow road with no shoulder is not safe. Furthermore if cyclists are going to be taking over our roads we need to incorporate a bike tax. Did the consultant even mention how the humps will affect the area residents?? No – we're peons.

The consultant's report regarding crash statistics said In terms of severity, 37% were injury collisions and 1% were fatal which is typical for urban 2 lane arterial roads. I ask if this is typical then why speed cushions? Did anyone do a crash analysis comparing ICBC crash data for River Road with other areas of Richmond? Before we spend all this money we need this analysis done.

Regarding signs along River Road.

I counted well over 102 signs along River Road between Westminster Highway and No 6 Road. Do we really need 44 new signs in cement blocks? River Road was such a beautiful stretch of road to drive along and now it is visual pollution. It is

ineffective. I think if there is less signs then there is a greater chance that people will read them (both cyclists and motorists) and the road will be safer. If speed cushions go in then we will have up to 76 more signs going up . This is absolutely crazy. Having a possible count of at least 178 signs for a 7 kilometer stretch of road is ridiculous. Not to mention the noise pollution on top of the sign pollution when the residents hear the constant thump of cars going over them.

Get rid of the visual pollution – we don't need all those signs (most of us have common sense and I would hope you see my point) Like, Sydney, Australia, I declare war on unnecessary road signs. Sydney wants to restore visual amenity to their streets in the form of “legally required signage” to make their streets look nice, driving would be easier and the cost of maintenance reduced. I request we do the same.

I suggest we:

Eliminate the cyclists from our road and that will in turn reduce 11% of the accidents. Instead channel the cyclists to Westminster Highway which is a safe designated cycling route – River Road is not.

22% of the accidents were at No 6 Road and River

21% of the accidents were at River and Westminster Highway

This means that 43% of the accidents are at either end of River Road so why do we need speed cushions installed all along the road?

9% were damage by debris so cleaning up the debris efficiently will lower that rate – again speed cushions wouldn't help in this case

13% were rear enders which shouldn't be caused by speed but rather driver inattention.

24% were other (some from snowy, icy roads) so do we really need all these costly speed cushions? No!

Remember 60% surveyed were against speed humps.

Put in moveable speed reader boards to make drivers aware of their speed instead.

We already deal with a road that has a narrow shoulder with utility poles, fire hydrants, trees and fences close by and then in the name of safety Richmond adds 44 cement blocks with cyclist signs for cars to launch off of - either into the ditch or river. Have we lost our common sense?

Please listen to those of us that are area residents and will be living this nightmare if speed cushions go through. We do not want them! Nor do we want all those signs!

Sincerely,

Trudy Haywood