

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Date: July 8, 2002
Author/Local: F. Lin/6445
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TO: Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Right-In-Right-Out Diverter at 49th Avenue and Columbia Street

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the temporary Right-In-Right-Out diverter on Columbia Street north of 49th Avenue be made permanent, at a cost to Langara College as part of the 1994 CD-1 By-Law Amendment.

POLICY

On May 27th, 1997, Council approved the Vancouver Transportation Plan that emphasizes the need to mitigate the effects of traffic in local neighbourhood areas and to give priority to streets and neighbourhoods where traffic impacts are most serious.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval on making permanent the temporary right-in-right-out diverter on Columbia Street at 49th Avenue which had been installed on a trial basis.

BACKGROUND

In 1994, City Council approved CD-1 By-Law Amendment for Langara College. As part of the amendment, Council directed staff to monitor any traffic impacts to nearby residential

streets. Subsequently, as part of the 1997 Traffic Signal Program, Council approved a traffic signal at the intersection of 49th Avenue and Columbia Street for the benefit of Langara College.

To mitigate potential impacts of the signal installation, a temporary right-in-right-out diverter (see Figure 1) was proposed to prevent the use of Columbia Street north of 49th Avenue as a shortcut route. Affected neighbourhoods were surveyed prior to the installation of the temporary diverter and residents were told that they would be resurveyed after the trial period to solicit their opinions. Two responses were received from the original survey. No concerns about the diverter were expressed. Subsequently, in January 2000, Council approved the installation of the right-in-right-out diverter on a trial basis.

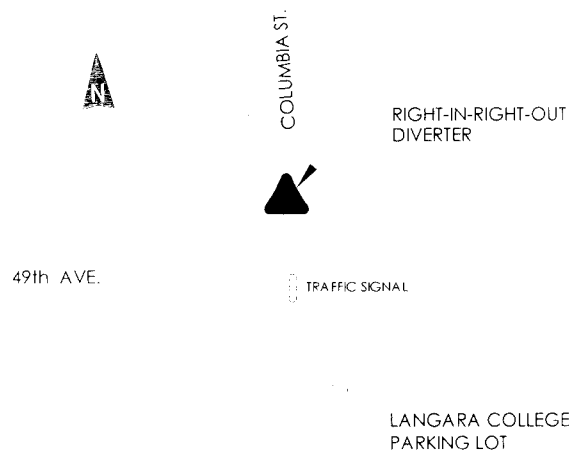


Figure 1. Diverter at 49th Avenue and Columbia

DISCUSSION

The effects of the temporary right-in-right-out diverter have been monitored by staff. A comparison of traffic counts taken before and after the installation of the trial diverter indicates that there is a reduction (57%) in traffic volumes on Columbia Street. Immediately east and west of Columbia Street, approximately 900 and 1100 vehicles were counted on Manitoba Street and Alberta Street respectively after the installation of the trial diverter. The amount of traffic counted on the adjacent streets is typical of other single-family residential streets in the city.

In June 2002, affected neighbourhoods were resurveyed to seek their opinion on the permanent installation of the diverter. See Appendix A for the survey sent out and Appendix B for the survey area. Survey comments are included in Appendix C.

The results of the survey, as summarized in Table 1, show that the majority of respondents (89%) support the proposed permanent right-in-right-out diverter at the intersection. A total of five respondents (9%) did not support the retention of the diverter. Their concerns are that the proposed diverter causes inconvenience to local residents and diverts traffic onto neighbouring streets, thus making neighbouring streets unsafe.

Table 1. Survey Results

Number of surveys distributed	146
Number of surveys returned	55 (38% response rate)
Approval rate to make diverter permanent	49 (89%)
Disapproval rate to make diverter permanent	5 (9%)
Neutral	1 (2%)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of approximately \$15,000 for the permanent installation of the right-in-right-out diverter would be covered by Langara College.

CONCLUSIONS

A permanent right-in-right-out diverter on Columbia Street at 49th Avenue is recommended based on the overall benefits to the neighbourhoods and the support from the affected residents.

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**APPENDIX A
INFORMATION LETTER**

ENG. LETTERHEAD

June 10, 2002

Dear Resident:

This survey seeks your opinion of the existing temporary right-in-right-out diverter on Columbia Street north of 49th Avenue (see map on reverse).

As part of the 1997 Traffic Signal Program, City Council approved a traffic signal at the intersection of 49th Avenue and Columbia Street. To accompany the traffic signal, a temporary right-in-right-out diverter was installed on Columbia Street north of 49th Avenue. The purpose of the diverter is to prevent vehicles from proceeding southbound/northbound to/from the Langara College parking lot out of/into your neighbourhood. Left turn movements into and out of Columbia Street north of 49th Avenue would also be restricted. The diverter was installed on a trial basis so its affect on traffic patterns could be monitored and adjustments made if necessary. A permanent diverter would be needed to prevent the use of Columbia Street north of 49th Avenue as a shortcut route. Based on the traffic volume reduction observed on Columbia Street following the implementation of the temporary measure, it is proposed that this right-in-right-out diverter be made permanent.

Please indicate if you would like this diverter to be made permanent by checking the appropriate box. The survey results will be reported to Vancouver City Council for a decision on whether the diverter should be made permanent.

If you have any comments or questions about the proposed project, please call me at 871-6445. In order to be counted, your response must include your name and home address and be returned to Vancouver City Hall no later than **Monday, June 28, 2002**.

Yours truly,

Fred Lin, EIT
Neighbourhood Transportation

Please detach the reply card along the perforation and return in the enclosed envelope. If you wish to expand on your comments, please fax them to 871-6192, email to Fred_Lin@city.vancouver.bc.ca or mail to: Fred Lin, Engineering Services, City Hall, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

	Yes	No	Neutral
Would you like the diverter to be made permanent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like to be advised when this issue goes before Council?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: _____

**APPENDIX B
DISTRIBUTION AREA**



Note: Shaded region indicates distribution area

APPENDIX C

SURVEY COMMENTS- APPROVAL

- Thank you. Our street is so much safer! We no longer have frustrated students and staff from Langara chancing dangerous crossings. My daughter and I use it regularly. It is a godsend. Thank you.
- Traffic calming plans work well. Thank you.
- The diverter is invaluable as a part of keeping Langara traffic out of our back streets.
- We think the diverter is a great idea.
- Number of accidents at this corner has been reduced.
- The temporary diverter has certainly made a difference on Columbia St. now. The only inconvenience I have is to drive down my lane to Manitoba and 49th to make my turn. It is quite difficult to try to make a turn to go east there because you can't see the cars approaching west because of the cars parked too close to the corner. I wait patiently to proceed. Sometime soon an accident there is in the making and I hope it's not me!
- Suggest same for 49th Ave W. at Alberta intersection RIRO Diverter.
- I do think it has some result reduce certain amount traffic in my area.
- I would like a traffic light at Alberta and 49th as it is such long wait to cross 49th.
- Since the right-in-right-out diverter was put in on Columbia Street, we have people speeding down the lane to avoid the diverter. We would like speed humps put in the lane, it is used as a speedway.

SURVEY COMMENTS- DISAPPROVAL

- It interferes with my driving from my home to 49th Ave. and returning again. I have to go round in circles til I can park in front of my own home. This is just not acceptable.
- Absolutely not! Since the diverter was installed, cars trucks etc. use our lane to bypass traffic- our lane badly needs speed bumps, why should we- the home owners pay for them when you caused all the problems? Only when someone gets killed or badly injured then you may come to your senses. The best solution would be for the exit and entrance to be where the residents were first promised- off Ontario Street. Get out of your cosy offices and see the mess you have caused.
- It has increased the traffic volume on Manitoba