



Deep Roots
Greater Heights

District of Maple Ridge

TO: His Worship Mayor Ernie Daykin
and Members of Council
FROM: Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Alouette Valley Association Proposal for 132 Avenue (216 Street to 232 Street)

MEETING DATE: November 7, 2011
FILE NO: E02-132-001
MEETING: Workshop

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Alouette Valley Association (AVA) has in recent years promoted a "Recreational Roadway" for the section of 132 Avenue from 216 Street to 232 Street. Representatives have met with and made presentations to staff, Council Committees and most recently made their presentation to Council at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on October 17, 2011. At that meeting, Council directed that a report be prepared for Council Workshop.

The focus of the AVA's presentation is to create a roadway that in addition to motorized vehicles provides for pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, wildlife and all users. The desire for some form of traffic calming has also been identified.

Engineering staff have met with a number of their representatives to discuss their concepts for a multi-use path and traffic calming measures. Preliminary concepts have been prepared and are attached to this report. In addition, these discussions have resulted in a number of road safety enhancements that have been implemented over the past two years along 132 Avenue.

ICBC has reported that over the past decade there has been an increase in over 18,000 registered vehicles in Maple Ridge. The District of Maple Ridge has a very close working relationship with ICBC and together developed the Safer Cities Program for Maple Ridge. In 2004, in anticipation of future traffic increases and corresponding traffic related issues, the District of Maple Ridge adopted its Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy. Within this policy are a number of traffic calming measures that can be used to address traffic related issues.

This report outlines the anticipated next steps with regard to 132 Avenue. Staff will continue to meet with the AVA to discuss concepts for the multi-use path and traffic calming measures. As well, input from all stakeholders will be included for consideration together with an analysis of the surrounding traffic network. Appropriate traffic calming measures can then be developed based on the District's current Traffic Calming Policy. This traffic calming action plan for 132 Avenue is similar to that proposed for other neighborhoods in the municipality and will be included in the upcoming Business Plan discussions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received.

DISCUSSION:

a) Background Context

The AVA has concerns with speed and traffic volume on 132 Avenue from 216 Street to 232 Street. They are proposing that this section of roadway be improved to enhance the safety and usage by all users and to preserve the wildlife and environment in the area. Their PowerPoint presentation entitled "Recreational Roadway Proposal" by the AVA and Silver Valley Neighbourhood Association has been presented at a number of different forums including:

- Economic Advisory Committee
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- District Staff
- Parks and Leisure Services Commission
- Council at Committee of the Whole

The presentation proposes potential attractions and recreation opportunities in the area, and the need to create a roadway that preserves the settings and be a showcase for Maple Ridge. Their goals for 132 Avenue from 216 Street to 232 Street are summarized below:

- Enhanced safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and other users by providing a 3.0m multi-use trail separated from traffic.
- Enhanced safety for equestrians by providing a 3.0m separated path.
- Traffic calming using current techniques such as chicanes, curb extensions and medians.
- Provide areas for parking.
- Promote recreation, fitness, tourism, equestrian events, and farms.
- Promote the attractions such as dykes, parks and wildlife all within minutes from downtown Maple Ridge.

b) Safety Enhancement Measures Implemented To-Date

Through discussions with residents in the area a number of measures have been implemented:

- "Share The Road" signs were placed on 132 Avenue between 216 Street and 232 Street in 2010.
- Centerline was changed from dashed yellow to single solid yellow line in 2011.
- Signs directing traffic to Abernethy Way were placed in 2011.
- Directional signage to keep Provincial Park traffic on Abernethy Way were posted in 2011.
- Enhanced RCMP traffic enforcement.
- Improvements on Abernethy Way at 216 Street and 224 Street to improve traffic flow on Abernethy Way.

Currently a road survey is under way to review if sufficient road width is available to paint a double yellow line on the roadway.

c) Design Considerations

The Parks Master Plan identifies 136 Avenue as a recreational corridor. The District of Maple Ridge has invested in this corridor through projects such as the recent completion of the North Alouette River Greenway (NARG) Bridge at a cost of approximately \$400,000.00. This has provided a link over the last barrier, the North Alouette River, for an alternative route to the north.

The Parks and Leisure Services Department has been working on developing an alternative equestrian route to the existing road shoulder on 132 Avenue. This alternative equestrian route starts at 232 Street and follows west through the Silver Maples subdivision, an off road trail, a separated boulevard trail, a road shoulder trail on 136 Avenue, and onto the dedicated trail in the unconstructed 136 Avenue right of way to the NARG Bridge. A network of trails are being designed and implemented through development and municipal capital projects.

Abernethy Way is designated as a major four lane arterial route from 232 Street to the Lougheed Highway. It is designated as a TransLink Regional Road through which TransLink provides funding for capital upgrades. The intended cross section for Abernethy Way is four traffic lanes (two in each direction) as well as a multi-use pathway for cyclists and equestrians.

To minimize replications and redundancies, the design of 132 Avenue must take into account the Parks Master Plan for trails including 136 Avenue and future improvements along Abernethy Way.

There are existing constraints on the 132 Avenue roadway alignment and cross section that may prove challenging when considering proposed multi-use path and traffic calming measures. There are deep ditches on both sides of the existing roadway and may require sections of retaining wall to widen the cross-section. Additional right-of-way may be necessary to accommodate a continuous multi-use path and traffic calming measures.

In advancing a design for 132 Avenue the overall network along with local constraints need to be taken into account.

d) Desired Outcome

The desired outcome is to report to Council on the AVA proposal for a "Recreational Roadway" for 132 Avenue and include in the upcoming Business Planning sessions discussion on actions and funding to address the issues raised by the residents.

e) Strategic Alignment

The District of Maple Ridge's Strategic Plan recognizes the need to balance all modes of transportation. The design of 132 Avenue will be in accordance with these strategic goals.

f) Citizens/Customer Implications

Engineering staff have met with a number of resident representatives to discuss the concept of a multi-use path and traffic calming. A public consultation process will ensure that all stakeholders are represented with respect to the proposed improvements on 132 Avenue.

g) Interdepartmental Implications

The design of 132 Avenue will require input from many departments including Engineering, Parks, RCMP and Fire.

h) Business Plan/Financial Implications

As part of the upcoming Business Planning process, funding for installing a multi-use path and additional traffic calming measures will be discussed.

i) Next Steps


The next steps for 132 Avenue from 216 Street to 232 Street include the following:

- Staff will continue to meet with the AVA to discuss concepts for a multi-use path and traffic calming measures.
- Concurrently, staff will be developing a plan initiating a comprehensive traffic analysis followed by appropriate traffic calming measures based on the District of Maple Ridge's Traffic Calming Policy.
- Finally, staff will be reviewing the funding of possible traffic calming measures as part of the 2012 - 2016 Business Plan.

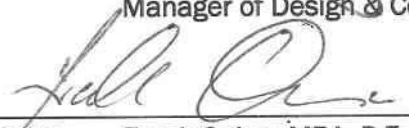
CONCLUSIONS:

There are concerns raised by residents related to traffic speed and volume on 132 Avenue from 216 Street to 232 Street. The Alouette Valley Association has proposed a "Recreational Roadway" concept for this section of roadway that will include a multi-use path and traffic calming measures.

Staff have implemented a number of safety measures and will continue working with the neighborhood to develop a plan that addresses the concerns. Discussions and funding for these initiatives needs to be examined as part of the upcoming 2012 - 2016 Business Plan.



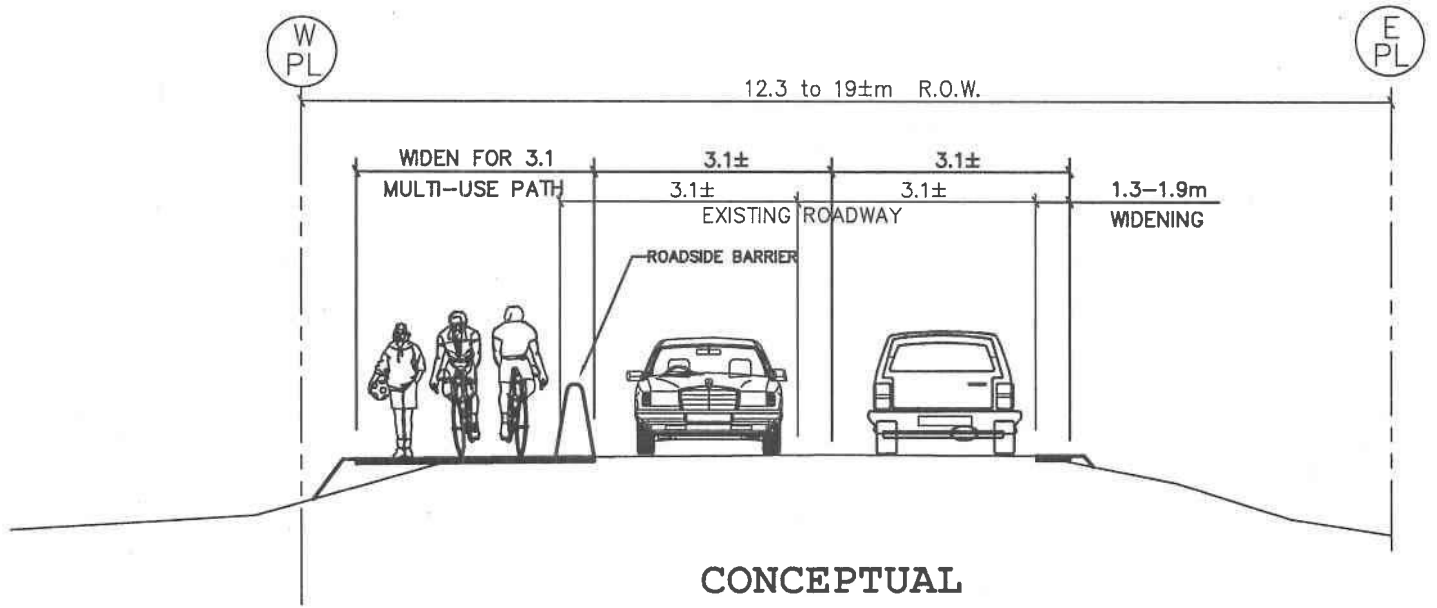
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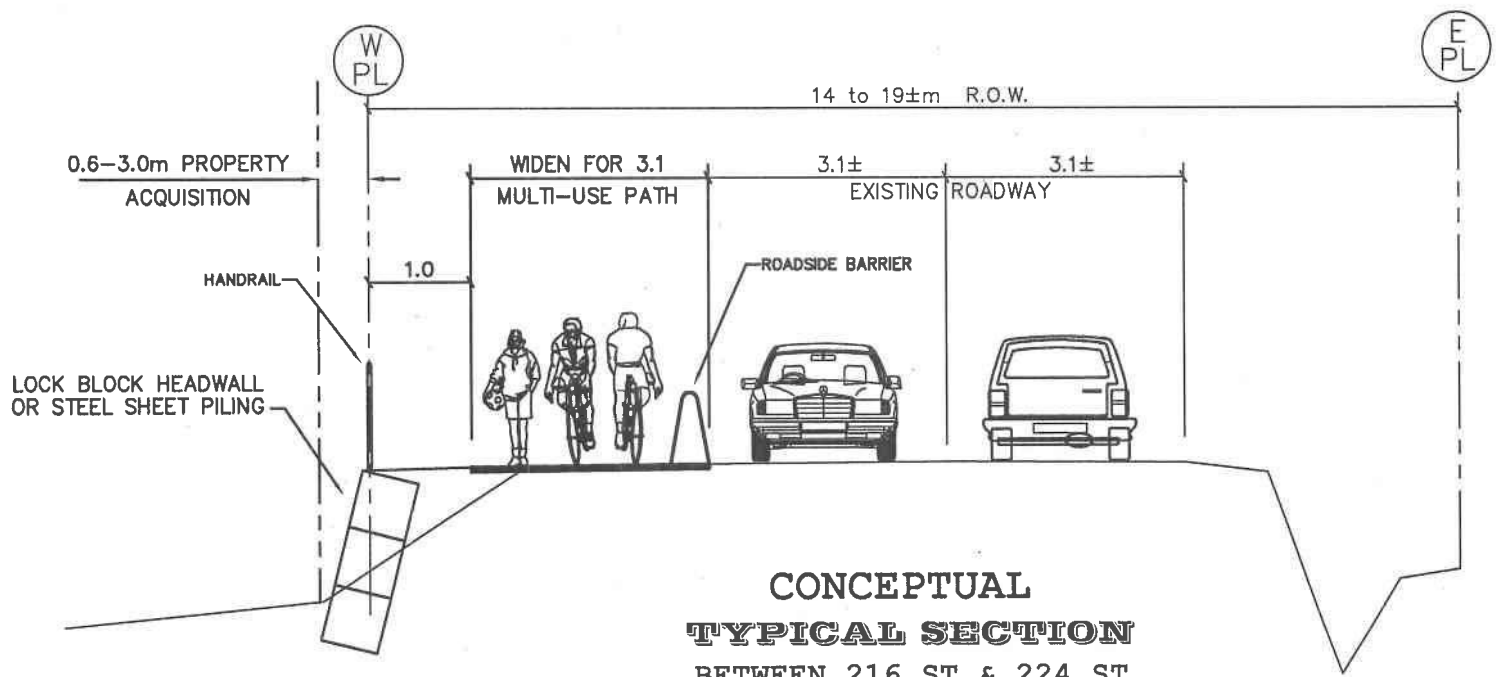
Approved by: **Frank Quinn, MBA, P.Eng**
 General Manager, Public Works & Development Services



Concurrence: **J.L. (Jim) Rule**
 Chief Administrative Officer



**CONCEPTUAL
TYPICAL SECTION
BETWEEN 224 ST & 232 ST**
NTS



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