

# City Staff Report

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Original signed by: City Manager Johnson

**Report Date:** February 8, 2021  
**Meeting Date:** February 16, 2021

**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Director of Public Works Operations  
**Subject:** Johnston Ave Resident concerns

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's direction regarding numerous complaints/requests from a resident who resides on Johnston Ave.

## Summary

- Persistent speed complaints are being received by a resident in Johnston Ave since 2019.
- These complaints/requests range from speeding concerns, replacing the speed bumps, creating 3 way and 4 way stops at intersections along Johnston Ave and adding a sidewalk on the south side of the street.
- Connection with RCMP to increase patrols were made.
- Speed readers were installed and do not show that there is a habitual speeding problem in this area.
- A request for installation of speed bumps is not recommended as Johnston Avenue had speed bumps installed and removed at the request of residents in 2014.
- An additional sidewalk on the South side of Johnston Avenue is now also being requested which also does not appear warranted based on the number of pedestrians using the existing sidewalk.

## Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL confirms Johnston Ave is an arterial road designed to move traffic to and from Johnston Subdivision and supports staff on not:

- Changing the speed limit on Johnston Ave as 50km/h is a standard speed for neighbourhood streets;
- Re-installing the traffic control devices (speed humps) as it was already decided to remove the previous devices; or
- Adding 3 or 4 way stop signs at intersections along Johnston Ave.

AND THAT Council supports staff's decision that the volume of pedestrian traffic on Johnston Avenue does not warrant adding sidewalks to the south side of Johnston Ave.

## Financial Implications

Depending on the decision made by Council, the changing of speed signage, adding speed bumps and 3 and 4 way stops, plus the addition of annual line painting of standard stop and crosswalk bars, and the addition of a sidewalk would range from a few hundred dollars to large Capital costs for construction and paving.

## Background

The recent speed complaints about Johnston Ave, directed to Public Works, started in 2019 from this resident. These messages were then forwarded to the RCMP and the resident told that speeding was a policing matter and that her messages had been forwarded on. Still unsatisfied with the solution the



resident wanted the speed bumps re-installed on Johnston Ave which were removed in 2014 after a request was made from the Johnston Subdivision Neighbourhood Association.

After receiving a complaint from the resident about the speed issues again in April 2020 the City Manager directed Public Works to install our speed readers along Johnston Ave to which they were installed from May 21- June 24. From the data that our readers provided it showed that entering Johnston Sub, from the west at Johnston Park where the speed limit is 30km/h that 57,127 readings were taken and the average speed was 39.4 km/h and 49% of the traffic was travelling at 40 km/h or less and that 91% (52,532 vehicles) were travelling at 50km/h or less.

As for vehicles entering Johnston Subdivision from the east, from North Star Rd with a posted speed limit of 50km/h, 50,812 vehicles were recorded with 53% (26,962) of vehicles travelling below 60km/h with the average speed recorded at 58.1km/h.

Along with the suggestion to re-install the traffic calming devices (speed bumps) the suggestion was then made to add another sidewalk on the opposite side of Johnston Ave. Public Works has been monitoring the usage of the existing sidewalk between 8:00 am and 9:00am and again between 2:00pm and 3:00pm Monday and Friday showing that during those times the average number of people using the sidewalk is less than 4 people over the 1.5km long sidewalk. Adding a sidewalk to the south side of Johnston Ave would require retaining walls, landscaping and significant construction costs which the usage does not justify.

As Johnston Ave is an arterial road and designed to move traffic through the neighbourhood similar to Lewis Drive, Baker Drive, Gavlin Road and Bowron Ave. City Staff does not recommend:

- Changing the speed limit on Johnston Ave as 50km/h is a standard speed for neighbourhood streets;
- Re-installing the traffic control devices (speed humps) as it was already decided to remove the previous devices; or
- Adding 3 or 4 way stop signs at intersections along Johnston Ave.

The adding of stop signs would create numerous issues included increased noise and air pollution from vehicles starting and stopping as well as increased traction issues during the winter months from vehicles starting and stopping a defeats the purpose of an arterial road such as this.

The **BC Motor Vehicle Act** establishes the basic or “statutory” **speed limit** on all public roads: 80km/h outside municipalities and 50km/h within municipalities. The respective road authority (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure or incorporated municipality) may alter posted **speed limits**.

The traffic calming devices were removed after a petition was brought forward in 2014 from the Johnston Neighbourhood Association requesting that they not be re-installed after sections of Johnston Ave were repaved.

It is important to note that a request was made recently, by local truckers, to allow commercial vehicles to use Johnston Ave as a bypass to the Plywood Plant and the Rona store. This request was denied for reasons such as safety by keeping the traffic on Johnston Ave to a minimum and more residential in nature. Increased commercial traffic would also have affected the overall wear and tear of Johnston Ave which would have lead to increased maintenance costs over time.

## Attachments

NA

## Concurrence

Director of Development Services, Superintendent of Public Works