

Bruce D Elliot



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Dear Central Saanich Mayor and Council:

The purpose of this letter is to provide my support in emphasizing the need for crosswalks to be added to the intersection of Wallace and Marchant. Currently there are other crosswalks on Wallace, but these crosswalks can not be safely used by those living in the Marchant area west of Wallace (area between Wallace and Brentwood Bay).

- ❖ One crosswalk is located 200 metres north on Wallace, just east of Sluggett.
- ❖ A second crosswalk is located 300 metres south on Wallace directly in front of Bayside Middle School.

At the November 19th Central Saanich Council meeting there was a discussion and motion regarding the following agenda item:

11.1.7. Public Works & Transportation

Wallace / Marchant Intersection

Background:

- Report from the Director of Engineering and Public Works dated, September 13, 2018.

Recommendation:

That the topic of the Wallace/Marchant Intersection and the report from the Director of Engineering and Public Works dated September 13, 2018 be included for review in the 2019-2020 budget deliberations.



Motion Moved and Seconded:

That the topic of the Wallace/Marchant Intersection and the report from the Director of Engineering and Public Works dated September 13, 2018 be included for review in the 2019-2020 budget deliberations.

The motion was carried with one councilor opposing. Although this motion has been passed for future discussion, adding these crosswalks is no certainty. There is considerable risk this project may be dropped once the 2019-2020 budget is finalized.

The main opposition to adding these crosswalks in 2019 are:

- ❖ Waiting until future planned Central Saanich Active Transportation Plan (CSATP) is completed to see how this project relates and is ranked against other Active Transportation projects.
- ❖ The assumption other crosswalks in the area are adequate
- ❖ The cost of project estimated to be \$330,000 (includes intersection sight-line improvements).

Let's look at the first two of these main oppositions (noted above) to completing this project in 2019:

- ❖ Waiting until future planned Central Saanich Active Transportation Plan (CSATP) is completed to see how this project relates and is ranked against other Active Transportation projects:
 - It could be several years before these much-needed crosswalks are added to improve safe pedestrian travel. With delaying this and other Active Transportation projects, there is a possibility that there will be no Active Transportation improvements in Central Saanich until the 21-22 budget year.
 - When the CSATP is completed, approved and individual projects are identified what other Active Transportation projects will not get funded due



to funds being allocated to the required improvements to the Wallace and Marchant intersection / crosswalks?

❖ The assumption other crosswalks in the area are adequate:

Since the November 19th council meeting, I have observed and noted route options taken by various individuals and groups. My study of the Wallace and Marchant intersection supports the need for an additional crosswalk at Wallace and Marchant to allow pedestrians safe travel. To illustrate this point let's look at route options for students of Bayside Middle School living in the Marchant area west of Wallace (area between Wallace and Brentwood Bay) walking to school:

Route Option 1:

- I. Walk up Marchant on the north side in the designated pedestrian shoulder area
- II. When reaching the intersection of Marchant and Wallace directly cross Wallace, **no crosswalk is available**
- III. After crossing Wallace cross Marchant, **no crosswalk is available**
- IV. Proceed on the pedestrian sidewalk to Bayside Middle School.

Safety Issues:

- a. Crossing both Wallace and Marchant with **no crosswalk or signage**¹

¹ It should be noted that users of the sidewalk on the east side of Wallace must also cross Marchant with no crosswalk to continue walking in either direction of the sidewalk.



Route Option 2:

- I. Walk up Marchant on the north side in the designated pedestrian shoulder area
- II. When reaching the intersection of Marchant and Wallace directly cross Marchant, **no crosswalk is available**
- III. After crossing Marchant, walk in the bike lane towards Bayside Middle School, walking south on Wallace with the traffic flow approaching from behind
- IV. Cross Wallace using the crosswalk in front of Bayside Middle School.

Safety Issues:

- a. Crossing Marchant with **no crosswalk or signage**
- b. Walking in the bike lane along Wallace with no separation from traffic or cyclists
- c. Walking along Wallace with back facing oncoming traffic goes against best practices to keep one safe

Route Option 3:

Note – This route more than doubles the distance required to be travelled.

- I. Walk up Marchant on the north side in the designated pedestrian shoulder area
- II. When reaching the intersection of Marchant and Wallace walk towards Sluggett in the bike lane facing traffic.
- III. Cross Sluggett with **no available crosswalk**
- IV. Cross Wallace using the crosswalk located at Brentwood Bay Elementary.
- V. Walk towards Bayside Middle School on the pedestrian sidewalk located on the east side of Wallace
- VI. Cross Marchant with **no available crosswalk**



Safety Issues:

- a. Crossing both Sluggett and Marchant with **no crosswalk or signage**
- b. Walking in the bike lane with no separation from traffic

Pedestrians who are traveling to Brentwood Bay School or the Village of Brentwood Bay have similar safety issues picking routes to travel. With no crosswalk at Wallace and Marchant pedestrians are forced to choose which route carries the lesser risk.

Please support this project and ensure these crosswalks are built in a *timely* manner. The safety of my community will be significantly improved.

Respectfully,

Bruce D. Elliot

CC: Central Saanich Community Association / Brian Barnett, Director of Engineering
Central Saanich / Wendy MacDonald, Principal Bayside Middle School

