



SAFETY AND TRAFFIC PROPOSAL

Frank J Ney Elementary

Purpose

To bring awareness and open the dialogue between stakeholders, to create an action plan to prevent accidents, protect, and provide a safer passage for students, pedestrians, and traffic around Frank J Ney Elementary School.

Concerned Good Neighbors

20 September 2021

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Document Overview

The following document outlines the concerns and recommendations of many concerned residents residing on Carriage and Entwhistle Drives located adjacent to Frank J Ney School. It is intended to provide information from the past and solutions for the future, to help define viability of change, critical safety details and the necessary risk mitigation measures.

The intended audiences for this document are the stakeholders outlined within.

The information contained within is accurate based on the information known at the date of proposal.

Introduction

This proposal is created by the neighbours and concerned individuals in the community surrounding “Frank J Ney” Elementary School, specific to residences on Entwhistle and Carriage Drive. This proposal is the result of multiple years of complaints, petitions, and interactions with city, school and PAC that have gone unresolved. Our group has adopted a more action approached demonstration to draw attention to our past concerns, and advocate for change in a timely manner that will address and provide solutions for the safety of all stakeholders.

The intended areas of interest are specific to Entwhistle Drive as exited from Hammond Bay Rd., Carriage Drive, and the congestion on Williamson Rd. during student pick up and drop off times.

The safety of our children, students, pedestrians, drivers, neighbours, and homeowners is our primary concern. As residents, we have witnessed multiple traffic infractions that have jeopardized the safety of these stakeholders.

There has been a lack of respect by some parents to homeowners on Carriage Drive that has impeded the movements of homeowners and damaged their property. All are explained in “Problem Statement”

Previous Actions

- Petitions signed and presented to the City of Nanaimo - 2019
- Car counter, and speed trap requests-2019
- Meetings and dialogue with Jamie Rose –no follow up provided by City.
- Homeowners contacting City with direct complaints – Historical and ongoing
- Homeowner and Parents reaching out to the Frank J Ney School with direct complaints
- Discussion with school representatives when the school was being built

Problem Statement

During drop off and pick up times for students attending Frank J Ney school, the following traffic infractions, safety incidents, and lack of marked parking areas has created the following safety issues.

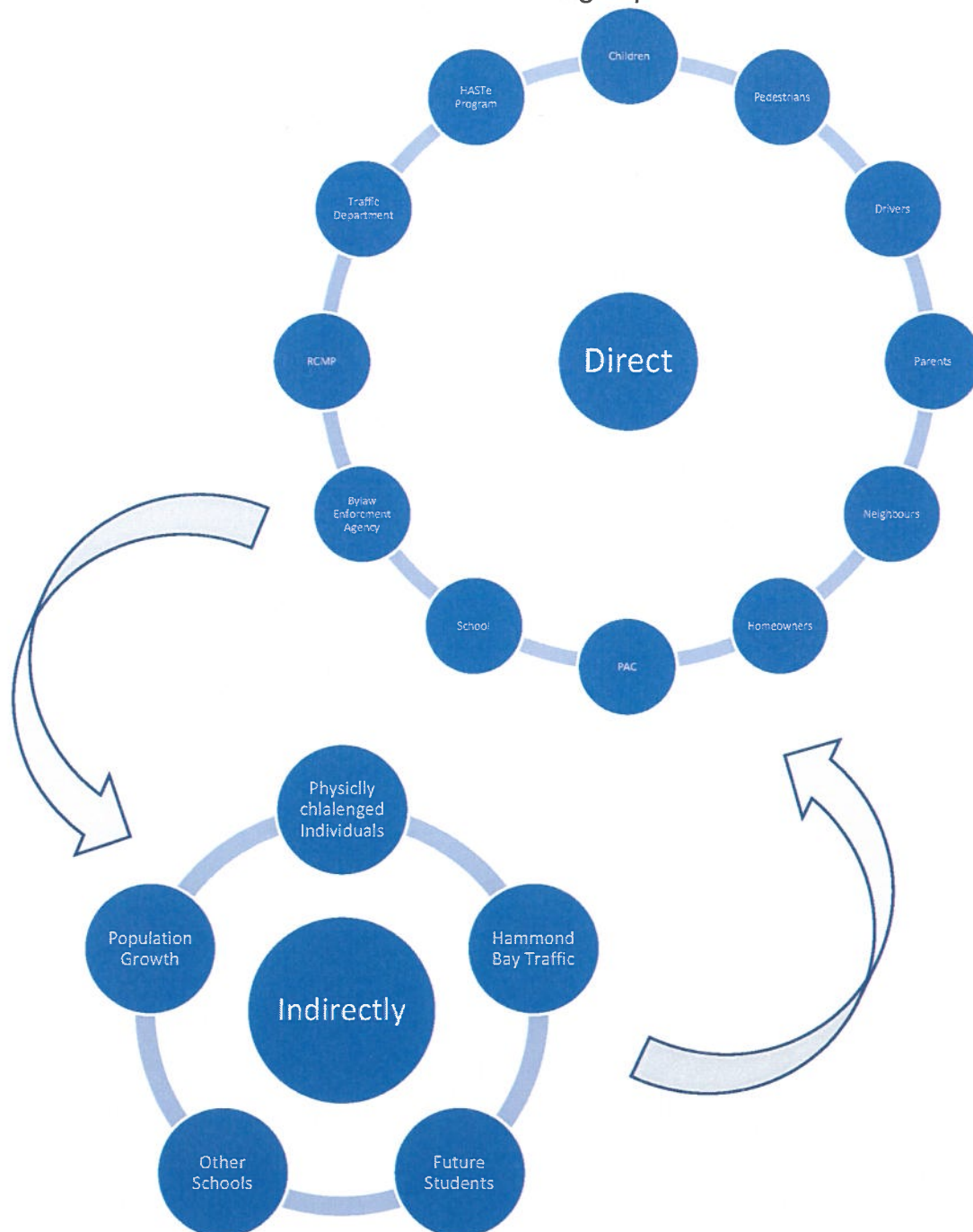
- Speeds of drivers observed as being more than the regulated speed limits both in a school zone and within a traffic congested area.
- Parked cars in “No Stopping Areas”
- U-turns at the base of Entwhistle Drive hill on a blind hill for drivers travelling towards Hammond Bay Road.
- Parked cars on both sides of Entwhistle Dr. forcing students, parents, and pedestrians to walk up the middle of the street on Entwhistle hill.
- Traffic narrowed to one lane forcing drivers to approach oncoming traffic on a blind hill on Entwhistle Drive.
- Traffic narrowed to one lane restricting drivers to turn left from Hammond Bay onto Entwhistle Dr.
- Cyclist exiting the Walley Creek Trail walkway from Frank J. Ney School blindly into oncoming traffic on Entwhistle Drive.
- Parked cars in front of fire hydrants
- Parents picking up students blocking driveways and movements of homeowners on Carriage Drive.
- Parents parking in homeowner driveways and leaving vehicle for extended periods of time to pick up students
- Parents parking in a congested “no exit” street which lacks a defined turn-around space and backing up to turn around, impeding the passage of pedestrians and endangering individuals including students.
- Parents parking on homeowner’s lawns and damaging homeowners’ property
- Non designated parking stalls at “Harry Whipper Park” parking lot – narrows the amount of available parking
- Parking by parents within the drive through drop off areas of school parking lot
- Blocked visibility on West side of street on Williamson at school entrance endangers drivers attempting to turn both left and right as they exit from the Frank J. Ney School parking lot- ripple effect- slows down drive through area of parking lot.
- Students crossing Williamson Road adjacent to the entrance/exit of Frank J Ney School.
- Disruption of scheduled Recycling/Garbage removal, along with Canada Post mailbox delivery.

Benefit Statement

Our goal is to bring awareness to, and hopefully open the dialogue between all stakeholders, to create an action plan so that change can happen in a timely matter, prevent accidents, protect, and provide a safer passage for students, pedestrians, and traffic. Recommendations for more productive “drop off and pick up” areas that offers safety, convenience, and timely movements. Encourage a respectful attitude for the neighbours and homeowners within the Frank J Ney school culture.

Stakeholders

This proposal provides recommendations for the “Direct” stakeholders. However, every action will in some way influence the “Indirect” stakeholders now and in the future. These recommendations are with these individuals and groups in mind.



Summary of Proposed Recommendations

The following recommendations are ones that are actionable by multiple agencies, with minimal costs and within a reasonable period. These recommendations come with documented pictures, videos, and advice from agencies.

| Entwhistle Drive | | |
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| RECOMMENDATION | SAFETY CONCERN | RISK MITIGATION |
| Traffic Calming Speed Humps ¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed reduces reaction time and increases the risk to hitting of a child, pedestrian, or other traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By controlling vehicle speed overall risk of accidents is reduced. |
| Cycle Barriers at the end of the Walley Creek Trail walkway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cyclists, and scooters exit directly onto Entwhistle without stopping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle barriers at the end of the walkway to prevent students proceeding out onto traffic installing a cycle barrier at the end of the pathway from the school to Entwhistle Drive would prevent <i>any</i> cyclist from racing out onto the road without stopping at <i>any</i> time. While not student-specific, such measures would also reduce the risk of student injury. |
| <p>“No Left” turns off Hammond Bay Rd. onto Entwhistle during specific school hours especially around Drop off and Pick Up</p> <p>Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0800-0900 1400-1500 <p>Add a left turning lane on Hammond Bay Rd.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left turns back up traffic on Hammond Bay often encroaching on the designated cross walk. Drivers encounter a single lane roadway. Drivers may be impeded in completing of left turns forcing them to remain in oncoming traffic from Hammond Bay Rd. as pedestrians short cut the crossing of Entwhistle prior to the cross walk. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of blocking traffic on Hammond Bay Rd. Prevention of blocking cross walk Prevents the narrowing of road due to parked cars Provides less traffic to accommodate a safer passage of students walking with respect to the Drive for Five program |

¹ Traffic Calming Speed Humps must meet the need to allow individuals with mobility issues, young cyclists to safely navigate and allow for snow removal. The preference of choice for this area would be those like the calming humps near Oliver Woods Community Center

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| No Parking within the first 30 M on Entwistle during school hours. Residents exempt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars parked too close to Hammond Bay Rd. cause a narrowing of the street forcing drivers into oncoming traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for safer turns onto Entwistle |
| Enhanced visibility of "No Stopping" sign on Entwistle Add additional "No Stopping" Signs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars parked on the right-hand side of Entwistle within the "no stopping" area cause the narrowing of Entwistle. Often the signs are blocked by trees and parents aren't aware of such signs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clearer line of sight of "no stopping" signs will provide for better compliance. |
| Signage – "No U Turns" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U turns at the bottom of Entwistle hill and on Entwistle puts oncoming traffic in danger and students in danger as vehicle could back up into pedestrians | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a bylaw that is enforceable |
| Drive for Five Walkway signs to enhance the program Drive for Five maps identified correctly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entwistle is the main artery for Drive for Five walkway, high volume of walkers Identify specifically on the map WALK/CYCLE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage could encourage respect for neighbours, reminder to walk safely within crosswalks and bring further awareness to the program |
| Enforcement of Bylaws | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrowing of streets due to the encroaching of middle lined roads Stopping in "no stopping" areas Blocking fire hydrants. Traffic stopped on sides of roads which forces students to walk within the centre of the road. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement helps create new behavioural patterns for those causing the infraction. Therefore, possible less traffic. |
| Sidewalk installed up west side of Entwistle hill. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrians walking up centre of road of Entwistle hill because of parked vehicles or difficult walking terrain. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer pedestrian walkway allowing for safe passage on a blind hill |
| School involvement: recommendations on website and email distribution to parents at specific times- start of new school year, after Christmas and spring break. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents are not aware of their actions or the rules and regulations of surrounding streets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and proactive measures by educating the parents early in the school year and throughout the school year of traffic violations and proper areas of drop off and pick up. |

Carriage Drive

| RECOMMENDATION | SAFETY CONCERN | RISK MITIGATION |
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| Traffic Calming Speed hump | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed reduces reaction time and increases the risk to hitting of a child, pedestrian, or other traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By controlling vehicle speed overall risk of accidents is reduced. |
| "No Vehicular traffic for drop off and pick up of school children" signage at corner of Coach House and Carriage Drive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow "no exit" street that is narrowed to one lane when cars are parked on both sides, this reduces the visibility and ability of driver to back up safely to turn around. Drivers often park in homeowners' driveways blocking personal use and often leave vehicle unattended which is considered trespassing. Prevents Fire and Ambulance to homes on Carriage Drive- No Exit area. Restricts movement of weekly garbage removal and Postal Services. City Workers have spoken to us directly about this concern. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less traffic other than homeowners allows for a safer passage of students as there are no sidewalks. Preventing of vehicles having to back up mitigates the danger to students and pedestrians walking behind these vehicles when visibility is a factor. |
| "No Parking Fire Lane" Sign Replaced Properly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original chain hung "No Parking Fire Lane" sign was swapped with no stopping sign during construction of extension and never returned to barrier. Fire lane is not designated properly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of the need not to block a fire lane to parents who are stopping and blocking the street. |
| Designated school traffic speed signs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observed speeds on Carriage Drive are dangerous on a blind corner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced speed to school zone would allow bylaw enforcement. |
| Enforcement of Bylaws and presence of RCMP Liaisons throughout school year as a reminder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infractions have been observed during school hours or drop off and pick up times. These rules and regulations are upheld 24/7 and most important during school times | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By enforcing infractions and representing the school in a manner that corrects bad behaviours and encourages behavioural pattern changes. |

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| <p>School involvement recommendations on website and email distribution to parents at specific times- start of new school year, after Christmas and spring break.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are not aware of their actions or the rules and regulations of surrounding streets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and proactive measures by educating the parents early in the school year and throughout the school year of traffic violation and proper areas of drop off and pick up. |
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Williamson Road

| RECOMMENDATION | SAFETY CONCERN | RISK MITIGATION |
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| Cross walk closer to the school entrance to accommodate safer student crossing from shoulder area on Williamson Road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students crossing in area with quick movements of vehicles Parents often can't see the children as they are turning in and out of school parking lot Traffic is often held up because of students crossing which restricts a constant flow of traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safer crossing area for students on a more controlled manner |
| Cross Walk Traffic Guard- Patrolling at school parking lot entrance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic is often held up because of students crossing which restricts a constant flow of traffic Students are crossing unsafely | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A crossing Guard could provide much needed direction to protect the children as they cross the road and help direct the parents out of the school yard especially when a left turn can be difficult |
| Designated parking stalls at Harry Wipper Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inefficient parking Poor vehicle direction of travel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By providing marked parking stalls the number of vehicles able to park is increased. Allows for safer vehicle direction of travel |
| Encourage parking on shoulder of Williamson with angular parking policy instead of a parallel park. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much space is taken up with parallel parking. Visibility is restricted to one side | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By parking with back end of vehicle into the bush, allows for greater numbers of vehicles to park side by side. This also is safer as it is a direct pull out allowing for visibility from all directions Children can enter vehicle off the road encouraging safer accessibility to both sides of vehicle |

Stakeholders

| RECOMMENDATION | SAFETY CONCERN | RISK MITIGATION |
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| <p>Frank J Ney School- Encourage guided cultural change amongst parents toward safety and daily traffic practices</p> <p>Priority parking within parking lot for parents of Kindergartens and Grade One Students</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver's actions are the direct response to the traffic frustrations. U turns and parking are unsafe actions. • Speeding in residential areas is unsafe • Parking in neighbouring homeowners' driveways or blocking driveways is illegal and disrespectful. • Parents of Kindergarten and Grade One students are encouraged to park and walk the children to school doors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By identifying these actions and providing a "Good Neighbour Respect Policy" Just like the Green Zones for the students. You are setting the example you wish for parents to take when dealing with their frustrations instead of placing other students in due harm or alienating the local neighbourhood. • By providing priority parking for kindergartens and Grade One Students it provides safe parking in the designated areas so that these children can walk safely into school, along with alleviate the need to park on Entwhistle Road and Carriage Drive. |
| <p>A reach out to neighbourhood for individuals who live on Entwhistle Road, Carriage Drive, Coach House Drive, Williamson to be a part of the School Travel Planning school committee and the Municipal Steering committee.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without out direct input from the described street homeowners stated streets surrounding the Frank J Ney School, concerns and complaints go without action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By including these individuals' valid concerns may be rectified and the safety for children and pedestrians improved. |

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| Frank J Ney School- Utilise an Email distribution list to neighbours in the area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of communication between group creates a delineation of concerns and views | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a “Good Neighbourhood information” link on your website allows those in the area to help Volunteer for programs that may need to be started within the area – IE: Crossing Guards. Funding is hard to come by but sometimes it just takes volunteers. There is an untapped resource within the neighbourhood who are willing to give up their time to aid in projects. Sometimes by including the neighbours and asking you may get all the help you need relieving some of the stress on teachers and EA’s |
| Students- Street safety awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyclists and Scooter directly entering onto Entwistle Drive from school is dangerous | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and teach students to be safe when walking, cycling, and scooting in and around traffic |
| PAC – Parent safety expectations and parking areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driver’s actions are the direct response to the traffic frustrations. U turns and parking are unsafe actions. Speeding in residential areas is unsafe Parking in neighbouring homeowners’ driveways or blocking driveways is illegal and disrespectful. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By identifying these actions and providing a “Good Neighbour Respect Policy” Just like the Green Zones for the students. You are setting the example you wish for parents to take when dealing with their frustrations instead of placing other students in harm or alienating the local neighbourhood. |

Reflecting the Past and Embracing the future

Parents create “student drop off and pickup” habits based upon their personal schedules, school learning times, and ease of movement that facilitate the quickest routes and reduce the time devoted to these activities. In some instances, parents are practicing unsafe traffic maneuvers, committing traffic infractions, creating unsafe conditions for students and pedestrians, and acting in a disrespectful manner towards homeowners living near the school. These practices have been perpetuated year after year and are now accepted as “normal” practice. While parents move on when their child leaves Frank J. Ney school, new students arrive to take their place and the issues outlined above continue with a new set of parents to the dismay of those of concerned with safety.

Projected population growth over the next ten years may mean an increase in the student population of Frank J. Ney School. If specific plans about improving student and pedestrian safety and reducing the traffic associated issues outlined in this document are not resolved now, they will only be exacerbated in the future. We are of the hope that it will not take a serious accident to force the changes we wish to see take place now.

Action Plan

Our “Action Plan” does not end with the submission of our proposal. We have individuals who will serve as point of contact for moving forward, knowing our Action plan is a working document as more agencies are advised of our recommendations. This proposal dove’s tails with the points made in the 2018 Safety Traffic Program which was developed without the input of the neighbouring residents of the Frank J Ney School. To date none of the issues stated in our proposal has been addressed or resolved.

With the support of the involved stakeholders, we will be happy to take a step back from our demonstration when we see actions, or commitments from- parents, School District representatives, and the City of Nanaimo. We want to help create, follow up and implement changes that align with our recommendations. Together as a cohesive group of stakeholders we look forward to accomplishing these goals so that the **SAFETY** of our students, pedestrians, and local traffic and the respect toward the neighbourhood are the highest priority.

Next Steps

- Continued awareness by Demonstrating
- Meeting with Principal- Completed Sept 15th, 2021
- Meeting with PAC
- Meeting with City Council Members and City Council – Approaching Sept 24th 2021
- Direct discussions with Council and City Engineering