

February 2, 2023

Mr. Jaz Sandhu
Town of Lake Cowichan
Superintendent Public Works and Engineering

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Dear Mr. Sandhu,

Re: Request to make our neighbourhood safe.

As you may be aware, there has been concern over the years regarding the traffic volume on River Road. Our neighbourhood has petitioned the town (June 2018), requesting pedestrian infrastructure and traffic calming measures to no avail. We are now at a point where new development (Ts'uu Baa-Asatx First Nation and Elk Road developments, along with the new recycling facility and increased Youbou traffic) will continue to add traffic along this road and push the neighbourhood to a critical unsafe level. Families are having to walk their children and pets on the road, elderly and the disabled are forced to walk on the road surface or on the uneven ground off the road. Traffic numbers from the September 23, 2020 study done by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure counted over 750 vehicles per day. This has continued, and will continue to increase especially during the summer months as temporary residents use this route as a shortcut to the town center. We understand that roads need to be shared. Vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists must co-exist but no accommodation for anything other than vehicle traffic does not make a livable neighbourhood. Disregarding the safety and health of people who live in this residential neighbourhood is irresponsible.

Our neighbourhood has no sidewalks, no painted lines for crosswalk or walk area, no speed limit signs or children playing signs, no raised speed bump or signs indicating vehicles have entered a neighbourhood. These conditions leave residents no alternative but to walk in heavy traffic.

We implore the Town to please include pedestrian infrastructure and traffic reduction amenities as part of the future plans in our neighbourhoods within the town. These additions would also help address increased pollution and noise concerns.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to a response that addresses the health, safety, and livability of our neighbourhood.

Respectfully, and on behalf of our neighbours,

Janice and Craig New
230 River Road
Lake Cowichan, BC
250.701.7645

cc. Joseph Fernandez
cc. Tim McGonigle
cc. APC Members