

Area D Traffic Study Update

At the next EASC meeting SRD staff will be providing an update on the proposed traffic study for Area D.

Some of the highlights from that report are:

Over the past several months, Regional District staff have actively engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to ensure that the terms of reference for the highway 19A traffic study align with concerns from the community and the Electoral Area Director. At a recent meeting between MoTI and SRD staff, discussions centred on the framework of the traffic study with the primary goal of enhancing overall traffic safety, beach access, infrastructure, and traffic flows in consideration of development projects in the northern end of Electoral Area D.

An allocation of funding has been made available to MoTI from the SRD to ensure that any out-of-scope work is included in the study, however MoTI staff have expressed at this point they feel there is sufficient funding within their resources to cover the cost of the study.

While MoTI has confirmed the approval of funding for the study in its 2024 budget, there are other milestones on their end to be completed in April before scheduling of the study can move forward. Staff will continue to update the Electoral Areas Services Committee as the initiative progresses.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Staff have engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation (MoTI) throughout 2023 to establish the proper process for developing a traffic study along highway 19A. As MoTI holds jurisdiction over the highway, it was critical to establish their support to ensure that the analysis considered the concerns of the Area D residents, the recommendations would meet Provincial standards, and that any resulting recommendations could be actionable. The Regional District received MoTI commitment to collaborate and fund the study in August 2023, but due to their budgeting cycle, the study would be included in the Ministry's 2024 budget.

A meeting occurred with Engineering, Community Services and MoTI staff on February 13, 2024 where key areas for examination and improvement were identified. The focus areas of the study include:

- examination of speed limits, their transition points, and the clarity of associated signage;
- measures to enhance safety for both pedestrians and vehicles seeking access to the beaches, as well as options for improved facilities to promote active modes of transportation;

- safe access to and from the Glenmore Road Commercial Center, with a focus on the condition of Glenmore, Regent, and Lambeth roads surrounding the commercial district and
- evaluation of the lighting in the area;
- addressing backlogs during school drop-off and pick-up at Crawford Road;
- a review of road prioritization for snow clearance events to ensure efficient response and
- maintenance during adverse weather conditions;
- emergency services access to communities that are only accessible from 19A, with
- consideration of impacts resulting from road closures;

Conclusion From The Director

Thank you to Engineering staff for providing this update for the community.

Changing any aspect of a **Highway** is not a **trivial task**. The biggest challenge is recommendations would meet **Provincial Standards**, and that any **resulting recommendations** could be **actionable**. That is why it is **imperative** that **MoTI** is fully engaged and while I recognize the pace may not be as fast as the community desires significant progress is being made on this important **initiative** that I **directed staff** to work on last year.