

Director's Update: Highway 19A Traffic Study Findings & Next Steps

To the Residents of Electoral Area D,

I understand and appreciate the concerns raised regarding access to the recent Highway 19A Traffic Study. I want to provide clarity on the purpose of this document, what it contains, and how we are using it to advocate for our community's safety.

Context and Scope of the Study

First, it is important to note that this 265-page technical report was commissioned and funded entirely by the Province of British Columbia. It was written specifically to guide provincial and local government engineers, planners, and transportation authorities—rather than as a public-facing policy document.

Throughout the process, input was gathered from key local stakeholders, including local First Nations, School District 72, community groups, and Strathcona Regional District (SRD) staff. Key findings have also been shared with neighboring jurisdictions, including the Comox Valley Regional District.

Key Opportunities Identified

Having been thoroughly briefed on the technical findings, I can confirm that the study outlines several key opportunities to enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists along Highway 19A.

As noted in the recent SRD press release, completing this traffic study is a significant step forward that provides practical recommendations to improve safety, accessibility, and overall connectivity along our primary coastal corridor.

Turning Recommendations into Action

While many in our community are eager for immediate solutions, implementing these physical changes depends on provincial budget allocations and how individual projects

integrate into broader regional transportation plans and funding frameworks.

The traffic study is an essential first step toward securing funding and physical changes on Highway 19A. It provides a concrete technical roadmap with the precise evidence SRD staff and Board Directors need to advocate effectively to provincial transportation authorities for priority scheduling. Furthermore, because regional traffic patterns have evolved significantly over time, the report recognizes that a broader follow-up study incorporating the Inland Island Highway (Highway 19) is appropriate.

Local Progress Already Underway

We are already seeing how the data from this study has directly informed recent improvements in Electoral Area D:

- **Bus Stop Upgrades:** The newest bus stops installed this year feature enhanced safety and accessibility features for both pedestrians and transit users.
- **Active Transportation & Paving:** Recent road paving along Highway 19A included shoulder widening in key locations, creating safer conditions for cyclists and emergency pull-offs.

I remain committed to working closely with the SRD Board, regional staff, and provincial officials to ensure these technical recommendations turn into tangible, long-term safety improvements for our roads.

Sincerely,

John Rice

Director, Electoral Area D (Oyster Bay–Buttle Lake)
Strathcona Regional District