

Riverside Drive Speed Hump Update

November 15, 2001

Name
Address
City
Postal code

Dear

This is an update regarding the “**Riverside Drive Speed Hump Petition**” that was circulated by residents of the Riverside area at the end of September and during the first half of October. It is being provided to all households that were canvassed. This information is provided by residents of the Seymour Valley Community and has not been reviewed or approved by the District of North Vancouver.

Before I go through the results of the petition, I'd like to thank the people who freely volunteered their own time to canvas a total of 261 residences in the Riverside area. At least three attempts were made to contact someone at each residence and we succeeded at 229 or 88% of the homes that were visited. It's also important to thank the 313 people who chose to make their desires known to the District Council and Staff.

So, how many people asked to have the speed humps removed?

81.5% of the drivers petitioned to have the speed humps removed!

By any measure, the District has been clearly told what the community wants. A summary of the results is included in the “Petition to the District of North Vancouver Council.” This petition was presented to the District Council and Staff on October 15th. A summary of the relevant parts of that council meeting is included with the petition as Attachment 1.

We asked the District and Council what they have done to respond to the vast majority of residents who have asked for removal of the speed humps. Once you've seen the summaries of their answers that are included as Attachment 2, you will likely agree that the answer is that they have done VERY LITTLE. You may even feel that council is supporting a small but persistent group of residents who council has wrongly assumed are our representatives.

We are disappointed by the initial response from our elected officials but this is only the start. Please see Attachment 3, the “Call to Action” to see how you can help and to see what actions are being planned for the next few months.

We will provide another update in the next few weeks, but you should also visit the Seymour Valley website at www.SeymourValley.ca for up to date information and to participate in our action to have the speed humps removed. A contact list has been included for residents who do not have Internet access.

Best regards,



Phil Holland

Attachment 1: Presentation of the Petition to District Council and Staff

Riverside Drive Speed Humps

Copies of the petition were presented to District Council and Staff during the public input portion of the October 15, 2001 Council meeting. Council and Staff had not had a chance to review the petition prior to the meeting so comments from Council were not expected and none were received. We became concerned that council wasn't listening when we reviewed the minutes of the meeting. What was clearly a petition was referred to as an "informal survey" as shown in the following, which is an excerpt from the October 15th minutes of the Council meeting.

From the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on Monday, October 15, 2001

4. Mr. Phil Holland, 2300 Block Riverside Drive, regarding Riverside Drive Speed Humps

- submitted the results of an informal survey conducted by residents of residents/drivers along Riverside north, mid and south
- indicated that the survey results show the majority of residents would like to see the speed humps removed, and urged Council to take the necessary steps to make this happen

After the presentation of the petition another Riverside resident, Ray Burns, the head of the Seymour Valley Community Association, spoke in favour of the speed humps. Only a few people know about or have been involved with the Seymour Valley Community Association but you should know some members of the District Council are convinced that they represent all of us. This excerpt from the Council minutes that summarizes Mr. Burn's comments.

From the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on Monday, October 15, 2001

6. Mr. Ray Burns, 800 Block Riverside Drive, regarding Riverside Drive Speed Humps

- thanked Council for approving the installation of the speed humps which are successfully slowing down traffic, making the neighbourhood safer
- commented that the delays in travel time are negligible if one follows the posted speed limit.

One person who was clearly opposed to the removal of the speed humps also made a presentation to council. The gist of her presentation was that the petition that was presented was biased and that the people who had done the canvassing had obtained support to remove the speed humps by misinforming, harassing and even intimidating residents. The following excerpt from the minutes of the Council meeting summarizes her comments.

From the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on Monday, October 15, 2001

8. Ms Ann Solheim, 1600 Block Riverside Drive, regarding Riverside Drive Speed Humps

- referenced the recent resident survey completed along Riverside north, mid and south, and expressed concern over the biased format of the poll, and the misinformation and sometimes harassing attitude presented by those conducting the petition/survey.
- in view of this, requested Council to disregard the resident survey, and if deemed appropriate conduct a safe, open and unprejudiced survey or review.

When the petition was put together, we tried to ensure that nobody would feel harassed or intimidated. That was why each household was provided with a separate form, why people were advised that they could decline to respond and why comments could be written on the forms that were provided to the District Council and Staff. If you did feel that you requested that the speed humps be removed because you were intimidated, please feel free to contact Phil Holland at (604) 924-1087 or Bill Maurer at (604) 929-9442 to change your response.

RIVERSIDE DRIVE SPEED HUMPS

Petition to the District of North Vancouver Council

October 15, 2001

Background

At the July 16 council meeting, the decision to construct four speed humps on the south portion of Riverside Drive was made. The decision was supported by public input provided by Context Research that provided a range of options and a District survey that addressed speed humps as the only option. The District survey confirmed that a slight majority of respondents supported the installation of speed humps. Concern was expressed about the size of the majority and the limited response but the decision went forward.

The speed humps were installed and high levels of dissatisfaction and frustration have resulted. To verify what appeared to be a strong majority to remove the speed humps, a group of Riverside residents circulated petitions that permitted respondents to request that the speed humps be removed or retained. The petition confirmed that a strong majority (75.2%) of the residences that responded want the speed humps removed as soon as possible.

Petition Results

One petition per residence was used so more than one driver could respond. This was done to allow tabulation of the residences and the drivers. As with the district survey, the results of the petitions were tabulated to show the geographic division that was evident. The three areas are the south end, (south of the 1500 block) the mid portion (the 1500 – 1800 blocks including Swinburne and Edgewater) and the north end (north of the 1800 block including Chapman, Tree Top, Riverbank and Rivergrove). In these areas:

- €# 46.5% of the residences and 50.9% of the drivers who responded in the south area have requested removal of the speed humps
- €# 72.8% of the residences and 78.1% of the drivers who responded in the mid area have requested removal of the speed humps
- €# 89.7% of the residences and 93.8% of the drivers who responded in the north area have requested removal of the speed humps

A summary of the results is shown in Table 1 and copies of the petitions are attached.

A total of 261 residences were canvassed. There are 19 residences that declined to respond and while at least three attempts were made to contact each residence, 32 could not be reached or chose not to answer.

Riverside Area	Total Residences Canvassed	Residences That Responded		Drivers Who Responded		Residences that Declined	Residences No Answer
		Remove	Keep	Remove	Keep		
South	63	20	23	28	27	7	13
Mid	90	51	19	75	21	9	11
North	108	87	10	152	10	3	8
Total	261	158	52	255	58	19	32

Table 1: Petition Summary

Some people expressed concern that the petitions only included a remove or keep option. In these cases, the person was encouraged to add their own comments to the petitions. We believe that these comments are important and encourage the district to review each comment. Petitions that have additional comments are identified in the tally list at the beginning of the three petition sections that are attached.

Request To Council

A majority of 75.2% (158 of 210) of the residences and 81.5% (255 of 313) drivers have requested that the speed humps be removed. A small but vocal minority should not be allowed to make changes that impact the whole neighbourhood. We feel strongly that all residents who are affected by the use of the speed humps be considered and ask that council act on this very definitive majority.

Please arrange to have the speed humps removed as soon as possible.

Attachment 2: Council and Staff's Action in Response to the Petition Riverside Drive Speed Humps

We gave the District Council and Staff two weeks to review the petition and then contacted Mayor Bell, the Councillors and district staff. A copy of the request that was sent out is included on the www.SeymourValley.ca web site along with copies of the actual replies. I encourage you to look at them. If you don't have web access, please contact me and I'll send you copies.

In summary, each party was asked two questions, "what have you done to respond to the petition that you were presented on October 15th?" and "will you support the request [to remove the speed humps] that was made in the petition?" Due to the length of some of the replies, I have arranged to have them posted on the www.SeymourValley.ca website. These are summaries of the replies.

Mayor Bell

Mayor Bell's reply to the first question about what he has done was that he had referred the petition to Traffic Staff for review and that the impact driving over the humps was greater than he'd expected. He stated that the "over-height "as built" has now been re-confirmed and the contractor will comply with the contract". He also believes that any comments should be based on humps that meet specification. Mayor Bell's reply to the question asking about his support of the petition was that the petition had raised issues and has asked the petition to be reviewed to see if these would justify review before the normal 3-month period. Once that information is received, he will give the petition careful consideration.

Councillor Denault

In reply to the question about what he had done, Councillor Denault replied that he has driven over the traffic controlling devices several times, has talked to some residents and has requested that this topic be reviewed at the next Joint Police Liaison Committee meeting. In reply to the question about his support of the petition he will weigh the merits of removal after he has met with the RCMP and staff.

Councillor Muri

Councillor Muri did not reply to my question about what she had done to respond to the petition to remove the speed humps. Her reply to my question about whether she would be willing to support the request to remove the speed humps was "I am aware of your request to remove the speed humps from Riverside Dr., unfortunately I am not able to consider your request at this time as I feel we need to leave them working for at least 6 months in order to assess the traffic patterns and speeds properly." She added that "This was a very long process, I have been a part of this issue since I became a councillor which is nearly 6 years, we have looked at several different options, and at the present time, with budget constraints, the option of speed humps were the best."

Councillor MacKay-Dunn

After the October 15th council meeting, Councillor MacKay-Dunn was concerned enough to speak to a group of us about the petition. At that time he agreed to drive over the humps. In his response to the question about what he had done to respond to the petition he confirmed that as promised, he has driven the road at various speeds. He found that he could navigate the speed bumps at 30 kph but felt more comfortable at 20 kph to 30 kph. He has also discussed our concerns and his findings with Mr. Zerr and has arranged for some of us to meet with Mr. Zerr. In response to the question about his support for the petition to remove the speed humps, he replied that "I am not in the habit of announcing my decision before all of the information has been made available to me." Councillor MacKay-Dunn continues to gather the information he requires.

Councillor MacKay-Dunn raised another interesting point. In his reply he states, "I am confused by the fact that your association president has spoken in favour of the speed humps." He is referring to Ray Burns who is the head of the Seymour Valley Community Association, the association that claims to represent the residents of this area. Mr. Burns has appeared before council several times in support of lowered speed limits and the speed humps.

Councillor Crist

Councillor Crist's reply to my question about what he has done to respond to the petition was to inform me that a survey was conducted by District Staff and it was found that a majority of residents were in favour of the speed humps. He has also asked staff and was assured that the survey conducted was in accordance with professional standards. He also said that he has received many calls from residents both for and against. In reply to the question regarding his willingness to support the petition to remove the speed humps, Councillor Crist again raised the issue that the Seymour Valley Community Association supported the speed humps. He said that, "unless there is an official request from the democratically elected executive of the Seymour Valley Community Association to remove the speed humps my decision [to install speed humps] stands." He also said "If you do not agree with the official position of the executive of the Seymour Valley Residents Association may I suggest that you join up and as a bona fide member request that this matter be reviewed. I will be guided by the democratic decision of this association."

Councillor Harris

Councillor Harris did not respond to two requests we sent her.

District Staff

Ken Krueger has represented the District throughout the installation of the speed humps. He did not respond to two requests for the answers to the two specific questions. Another request sent to Mr. Krueger and copied to Mayor Bell was for a copy of the mailing list used to do the original District surveys. No response was received so we had to create a mailing list based on addresses and names from the petition. If your name is incorrect, or if you received a "To The Resident" reply, please contact me so that our mailing database can be updated.

We greatly appreciate the replies that we received from the Mayor and most of the Councillors but the message they sent us was a disappointment. That message is that our elected officials have been constantly lobbied by a group of people that they believe represent all of us. Now, even though the petition clearly indicated that the democratic thing to do is to remove the speed humps, the Mayor and Council remain focused on the wishes of a small minority of residents who want to keep them.

Mayor Bell has actually stated, "any comments should be based on humps that meet specification." This is not what has been requested by the majority of the residents. We have asked to have the speed humps removed. How long will it take before the Mayor and Council realize that they are not listening to the community as a whole?

To get a very clear understanding about the responses from Council, we encourage you to review their complete replies on www.SeymourValley.ca. We're interested in your reaction and ask that you send your comments to SpeedHumps@SeymourValley.ca. If you don't have access to the internet please fax your reply to 604-924-1743 or phone Phil Holland at (604) 924-1087. Your comments along with any other correspondence that you want to make public will be posted on the web site unless you state that this should not done.

Attachment 3: Call For Action and Support

Riverside Drive Speed Humps

Getting our neighbourhood back is not going to be an easy task. To succeed, we need your help. These are some of the actions that are planned and how you can get involved.

1. Communicating with the Seymour Valley Community

We want to keep you informed! Be sure that your address is correct so that our mailed updates reach you. If you use email, send your email address to SpeedHumps@SeymourValley.ca or register on the www.SeymourValley.ca website. If you wish to tell us what your thoughts are email us or fax us at (604) 924-1743.

2. Get Council's Attention

By any measure, the vast majority of residents have asked to have the speed humps REMOVED. Council and the Mayor are simply not listening to us. Email, fax or phone the Mayor and all the Councillors. Be sure to ask for a reply! Their phone numbers, email and mail addresses are on the contact list that is attached. Be sure to copy us at SpeedHumps@SeymourValley.ca if you want your questions and councils' answers posted on the website. Copies of mailed replies can be faxed to 604-924-1743 or mailed to Phil Holland at the address on the contact list.

Send our Mayor and Council a clear message that we want the speed humps removed. Make sure that they understand that in six months, this is an election issue. Each time we drive over the speed humps we're thinking about what council has done. Remind them that we have to drive over the speed humps on the way to vote at the next election.

3. Get the Attention of District Staff

It may seem like the Mayor and Councillors are the only people who have control. This isn't the case because Council usually follows Staff recommendations. During the public input phase the residents listed several important options but speed humps were the only recommendation that the District Staff provided to Council. Council approved their recommendation. Richard Zerr's department does the speed hump planning but Ken Krueger is the primary contact for the Riverside speed humps. Ken's email address is kkrueger@dnv.org and his telephone number is (604) 990-2349. Call or email him to express your views. Be sure to ask him for a reply so it can be posted on the website.

4. Get the Attention of the SCVA

The comments made by Councillors Crist and MacKay-Dunn show that they listen to the executive of the Seymour Valley Community Association. Most residents have never heard of the organization but you are a member because you live in the Seymour Valley area. Call or email the person who heads this organization. Ask Mr. Burns when the next meeting and AGM will be. We asked Mr. Burns but did not get an answer to repeated requests for this information. The District website lists Mr. Burns email address as rburns@direct.ca and his telephone number as (604) 929-8088.

Once we find out when the next SVCA meeting is we will tell you. Be sure to attend. Another important meeting is the annual meeting that must be held each year to elect officers. Mr. Burns has not set a date that we know of but we will tell you when it is. If you're interested in being active you may want to run for an executive position. As a minimum you should attend so you can vote.

5. Volunteer to Assist Us

It's clear the majority of the community does not support the use of speed humps in any form. Until 1999, Council's own policy manual stated that they should not be used. We have them today because we didn't say no while a small group persistently lobbied for their use. It will take a lot of effort to change this. To do this we are assembling the human resources required to do things like lobby council, monitor the actions of the SVCA, communicate with the press, and prepare updates that will be mailed to the Seymour Valley Community. If you are willing to help us, please contact us at Issues@SeymourValley.ca or phone Phil Holland at (604) 924-1087.

Contact List

To assist with or for information about the speed hump project, contact Phil Holland

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This is the contact information for the Mayor and Council that is published on the district website.

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For Information about the Seymour Valley Community Association, contact Ray Burns.

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