

June 23, 2016

Mayor and Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

SECTION 2
COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE
City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Dir. Engineering
Traffic Safety Committee (Oct 3)

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and parent about a critical safety issue in my East Burnaby neighborhood; pedestrians crossing 16th Avenue between Cariboo Rd. and Cumberland St. I live at the Englewood Mews complex just off of 16th Ave. – the entrance to which is just NNE of Cascade St. Our complex has many young children who attend Armstrong Elementary School, older children who attend Cariboo Secondary, and a half dozen preschoolers who attend Pied Piper Preschool and various daycare facilities in the neighborhood.

The problem is twofold. First, there is only one crossing of 16th Ave in the ~700m between Cariboo Rd. and Cumberland St., at Cascade. This crosswalk is located down the hill from a natural crossing at Cariboo Hill School Park, which necessitates children walking down, crossing at Cascade, and then walking back up a fairly steep incline to get to the park or school. The “natural crossing” is at a trailhead just East of where Englewood Mews ends and before the George Derby area. This trail continues on the other side of 16th and proceeds to the cul-de-sac at Coldicutt St., where Armstrong Elementary is located. This trail, which I will call “Coldicutt Trail”, proceeds north of 16th Ave, into the George Derby forested area, and ends at a residential complex on Mulberry Place. This area also has many school-age children that almost exclusively use “Coldicutt Trail”.

At this natural crossing, I witness at least 20-30 children cross a very busy 16th Ave every day (school days, and on weekends to access the park). There have been numerous close calls and barely avoided accidents, because the visibility here is poor and cars speed excessively (the second major problem, addressed below). The city has erected a small metal “fence” that used to have signage directing pedestrians to cross down at Cascade St., but these signs have long since been covered in graffiti and are useless anyway, since this is the natural crossing point. Now that there is new construction of additions to the George Derby Care Centre, there will be more residents along this stretch of roadway, including elderly and mobility-impaired. I have no idea how they will cross to the park, since the only crosswalks are quite a hike to either side. Note, there is a lot of traffic on this street as it is a main route between the freeway entrance and Pattullo bridge to avoid congestion on 10th Ave. – over the past 4 years as a resident here, I have seen traffic increase substantially, especially large trucks who barrel down this street as if it is part of the freeway.

This brings me to the second problem with this stretch of road: Although the speed limit is 30 kph along 16th Avenue in the playground zone abutting Cariboo Hill School Park, I rarely see anyone slow down and in fact there are many who drive over 80kph, plus many incidents of road rage over the confusion of whether the speed limit is in fact 30 or not. This is likely because the school zone ends at 5pm on weekdays, and is right next to the playground 30 zone (active on weekends as well). Since the crosswalk

at Cascade is hidden around a curve, I have seen many cars and trucks blast right through the crosswalk and red light and children are crossing, barely missing them. I have been in the crosswalk when this has happened, in fact. The speed of cars and especially trucks here, and the inability to stop, is a major safety concern. There are flashing warning lights further up 16th Ave to warn of the pedestrian-controlled intersection, but they seem to be ignored.

I would like to implore the City of Burnaby and the RCMP to take some or all of the following actions to ensure the safety of my children and families who live along this stretch of roadway in Burnaby:

- 1) Conduct a proper assessment of the traffic along this roadway, and how best to manage safe pedestrian crossing
- 2) Increase enforcement of traffic laws between Cascade and Cumberland along 16th Ave
- 3) Build a new 16th Ave crossing between the park/playground and George Derby Centre, either a new pedestrian controlled crosswalk, or even better yet a tunnel or elevated crossing to allow for mobility-impaired (such as the one across Cariboo Rd.)
- 4) Install a red light camera at the pedestrian-controlled crosswalk at Cascade and 16th Avenue
- 5) Extend the 30 kph speed zone all the way from Cariboo School Park to the crossing at Cascade, and make the 30kph signs far more visible (one of them is partially obscured by a tree)
- 6) Install flashing speed detection signs that show drivers how fast they are traveling, along with larger PLAYGROUND ZONE signs
- 7) Install speed bumps of some sort
- 8) Fix the signs at "Coldicutt Trail" to warn pedestrians of unsafe crossing conditions

Since Burnaby and is in an excellent financial position this year, I would like to see some of these safety concerns addressed immediately. It is only a matter of time before somebody is killed crossing 16th Ave. The city recently tore up the road and grass to install a drinking fountain at the park (which does not work), so improvements can obviously be made and should be prioritized for safety of children and the elderly. The new development at George Derby Centre means there will be even more pedestrians in this area, and a new crossing is essential. I have included a rough sketch map of the area.

Thank you. I would appreciate a reply in writing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristoffer Palma



Burnaby Resident, 8701 16th Ave

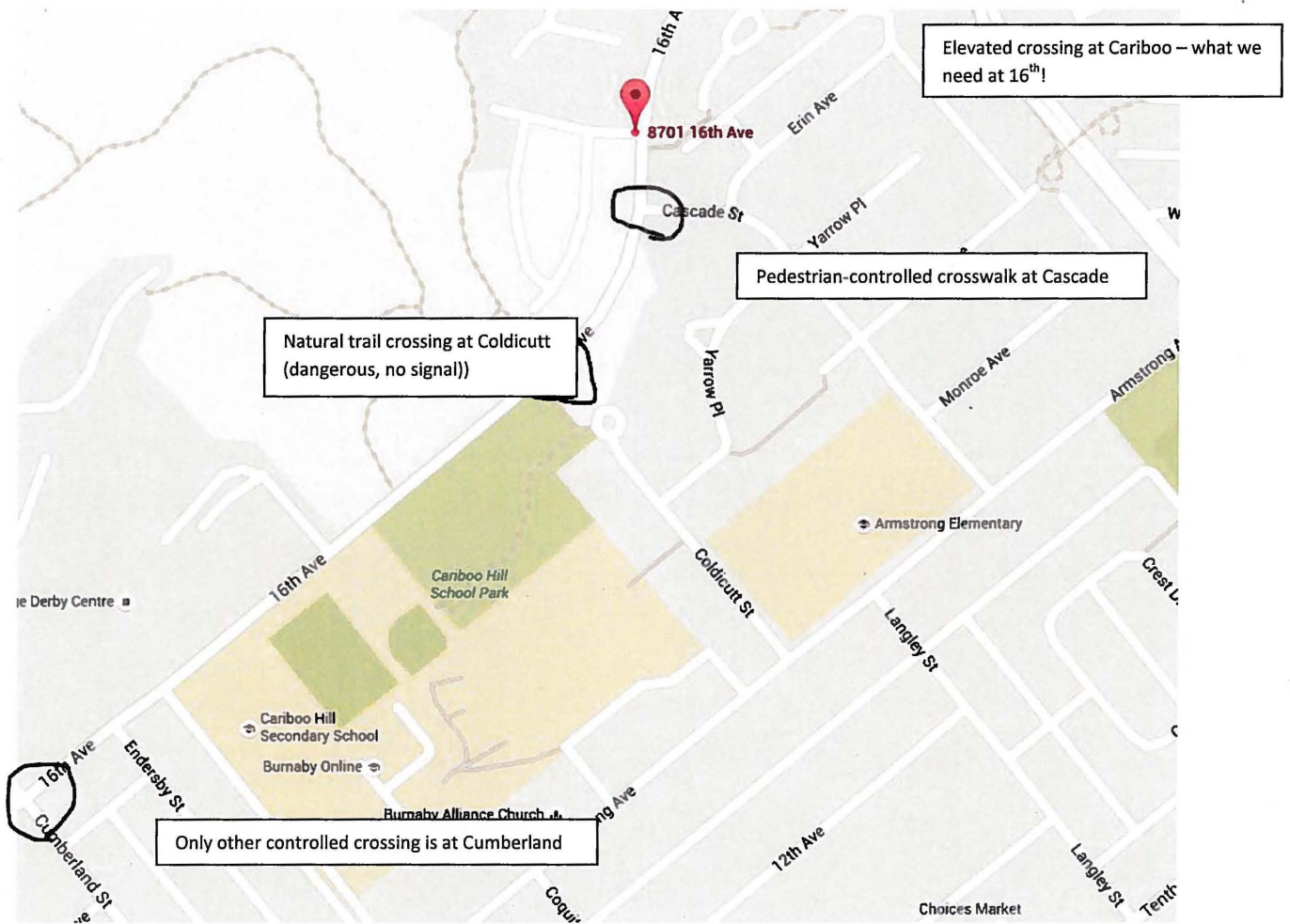


Figure 1: Rough map of 16th Ave and crossing mentioned in letter