

November 14, 2019

Traffic Safety Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

To the Traffic Safety Committee,

I'm writing this letter in response to a specific crosswalk in Burnaby that I have felt is unsafe since my relocation to South Burnaby in 2017.

The crosswalk is where Victory Street crosses Royal Oak Avenue, and Royal Oak Avenue is divided in this intersection by a small meridian. I am a 25-year old nurse who works both early and late hours of the day, and I walk from my apartment at [REDACTED] Royal Oak Avenue to Royal Oak SkyTrain Station for my daily commute. This means that I'm usually walking this route at least once a day in the dark. This crosswalk has very poor visibility, and in the rain, the street lights and oncoming traffic make the reflection of light on the wet road nearly impossible to see pedestrians.

As a driver myself, I pay particular attention to this crosswalk but I still find it very difficult to see in the dark. I am compelled to write this letter because I have seen many near-miss accidents at this crosswalk, and my partner was a witness and first-responder to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle at this very crossing. I am accustomed to waiting for multiple vehicles to pass when waiting to cross the street, however last night on my way to work I waited for 9 vehicles – 7 vehicles continued driving before I even started crossing the street, and 2 vehicles continued driving even once I was waiting at the meridian half-way across the street. It was dark last night, but it was not raining. As a critical care nurse, I am no stranger to the traumatic injuries that can result from pedestrians stuck by moving vehicles.

I'm hoping that this letter of concern can help raise safety awareness about this crosswalk. My suggestion is for either a crosswalk with flashing lights to greatly increase visibility, or removal of the crosswalk altogether and relocation to a safer area. It would be a shame to wait for a fatality before a change is made.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback.

Sincerely,



Carmen Morgan
Burnaby Citizen

Please feel free to communicate with me via email at [REDACTED] to get in touch.

[REDACTED] if you would like