

From: Audrey <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Commuter Traffic on Duthie and Safety of Residents
Date: April 19, 2021 at 12:09:35 PM PDT
To: joe.keithley@burnaby.ca

Dear Councillor Keithley,

We are residents of the Westridge Community and are experiencing a large amount of commuter traffic running through our area. Duthie north of Hastings and Ridge which has an access to Inlet Drive are increasingly inundated with commuter traffic. This portion of Duthie and Ridge are designated as local Collector streets whose function is to provide access to local residents to connect to major routes.

Adjacent to us is Hastings St., an arterial route. However, commuter traffic coming off of Inlet Drive into Burnaby and commuter traffic going east onto Inlet Drive from Burnaby are using this street as a shortcut as opposed to using Hastings which is the designated commuter route.. Every day hundreds of commuters are using this route all day with numbers exponentially increasing into the rush hour turning our street into a highly unsafe area for residents, pedestrians and cyclists. Commuter traffic is coming from both directions even though there are restrictions on left hand turns onto Ridge from Inlet during rush hour. In addition, we observe an increasing number of motorists accessing Ridge from the west bypassing the Hastings route altogether.

In other words, Duthie has become a major commuter route for frenzied motorists in a rush to get home.

We have taken various measures over the past five years to get Burnaby to resolve this. This includes requesting speed bumps to slow slow traffic and discourage commuter traffic. We have also submitted a petition and appeared as a delegation before the Public Safety Committee in May 2018 requesting closure of the access or other appropriate measures to address this situation (Reference-City of Burnaby File 2410-20)

In addition, I wrote to the Mayor with an appeal to restrict access of Duthie and Ridge to local traffic only. His reply came from Mr Doug Louie whose concern was closing Duthie and Ridge to local traffic only would impact other streets. The street adjacent to us, Hastings, is an arterial route whose function is to take commuter traffic. This decision to allow us, a local collector, to be flooded with commuter traffic makes no sense.

Based on what we are observing here, a vehicle every few seconds going either direction on this stretch of road, we do not agree that Burnaby's traffic count of 3000 vehicles in a 24 hour period is accurate. We need Burnaby to undertake a field observation at the highest peak times to assess the risk of this high traffic volume on its residents.

Burnaby is denying us the right to have a safe and livable neighbourhood by allowing the huge number of commuter traffic on this street. It makes a complete mockery of their stated policy to protect neighbourhoods from shortcutting traffic especially when there is an adjacent street that is an arterial route.

We are requesting that you serve as an advocate for our residents in this matter. It has become a dire situation for the safety of our residents. This street is also designated as a shared bicycle route. With this amount of traffic it is not safe for residents who wish to cycle on this route and especially residents with children cycling as well. I've heard parents who are cycling with small children urging them to quickly cross the road as the street is deadly.

I have attached the following as background information: