

Jan Moore,

Att.: Tobie Elliott

July 27, 2024

Dear Community Leaders,

I know you don't know what the residents of Dirksen Road experience daily. It's something folks who drive past us in 20 seconds don't understand.

We live in the most heavily populated part of Gabriola. Dirksen Road has recently turned into a freeway that is highly travelled all day and evening. We have folks who speed race this route daily. Most residents and non-residents choose this road over Easthom. We know this because we recognize the cars of folks who live on Easthom.

We estimate that return trips every day on this route are close to 1,000 vehicles. Since the pandemic, there has been an explosion of one-ton trucks on this route. Some of this is likely due to all the new builds in the area. A lot of it is industrial traffic.

Our Residential neighbourhood has become an Industrial Zone. There is a parade of trucks every day. Bring the kids over to the Dirksen/Stephens corner so they can count the Gravel Trucks, Logging Trucks, Graders, Backhoes, Big Rock Trucks, Stump Dump Trucks, Cranes, Hydro Trucks, Excavators, Septic Trucks, Bulldozers, Forklifts, Tow Trucks, Cement Mixers, Water Tankers, Box Trucks, Panel Trucks, Flatbed Trucks and multiple RVs, along with the usual race car drivers. We have Emergency Service vehicles as well, but we know they're needed.

Judging by the flow of traffic, we're convinced there is a Stump Dump, a Sawmill, and an RV Park at the end of this route. We all know there's a Gravel Pit. We hope you will check to see if these are legal in this area.

There are plenty of times when an impatient driver will pass a car on the blind curve. I'm surprised there are not more reported accidents. I guess we've been lucky so far – although I have witnessed seven cars go into the ditch while we've lived here.

There is a truck driver who races up and down Dirksen Road every day. Whenever he passes in front of my neighbours' driveway – he guns his engine and swears at him – because he had the nerve to tell him to slow down because kids were on the road. He has done the same to me. As I walked out of my driveway I have been greeted by a speeding truck and a "Fuck You" screamed out his window.

There are a lot more children who walk or cycle to school or Huxley Park along Dirksen now. We need to address that blind curve before a child gets hit.

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AUG 07 2024

ISLAND TRUST
NORTHERN OFFICE

There needs to be a Truck Zone off South Road (the address of the Gravel Pit) that joins up with Dempsey Road. We are surprised that wasn't a mandatory requirement for the business permit. In case of emergency – we will need another exit route as folks aren't comfortable driving the rock fall area known as Easthom Road.

We wonder what would happen during an Island-wide emergency evacuation. We can only imagine the traffic gridlock as visitors and residents discover the only vehicles allowed on the Ferry will be Emergency vehicles. Best to practice our active transportation modes ahead of time.

However, there is no bike path or sidewalk here. Pedestrians and cyclists grip the edge of the road and look for the safest escape route to jump into when speeders in opposite directions pass both us and each other.

If we lived at the end of a quiet road with a peaceful view, we might not be bothered about other Islanders dealing with fast-paced industrial and commuter traffic or their exhaust fumes. If we could see the water from our deck, we too might be focused on the destination and how to get there as fast as possible so we could slam our car doors and just relax. While others get to breathe in the cool, salt air - we get to choke on dust and exhaust fumes. We'd like us all to consider others and to slow down so everyone can enjoy the journey as well as the destination.

This community has already killed one of our volunteer fire fighters and permanently injured an RCMP officer – but still we race. We would like you to work together to slow traffic down. Now that you know, what we know, we would like your help to make our roads safer for all of us.

Thank-you for working on our behalf. We appreciate you,



Jan Moore (*on behalf of residents of the Dirksen/Stephens neighbourhood*)

cc. Corporal Jordan Mullen, RCMP
Tobi Elliott, Trustee - Islands Trust
Susan Yates, Trustee - Islands Trust
Will Sprogis, Gabriola Fire Chief & Jamie Ovens, Deputy Fire Chief
Vanessa Craig, RDN Director
Sheila Malcolmson, MLA (Please share with MOTI.)
Derek Kilbourn, Editor - Gabriola Sounder

Speed Reduction Petition for Dirksen and Stephens roads on Gabriola

July 2024

We, residents of Dirksen and Stephens roads on Gabriola Island need to see a dramatic reduction in the speed of vehicles that travel this route – in particular the blind curve at the transition from Stephens to Dirksen that has a dip in the road just the other side of the Mailboxes. We cannot see around the blind curve when walking up Dirksen towards Stephens nor see a vehicle in the dip when waiting to turn left onto the other side of Dirksen.

In the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of children, seniors and other pedestrians as well as cyclists on this route. At the same time, there has been a dramatic increase in industrial traffic. This is putting our lives at risk. We need this addressed asap as there is no sidewalk or bike path for us to safely journey on – just a lot of speeding vehicles that don't give us enough room to pass safely. This is also an active wildlife corridor.

Possible solutions: Speed Bumps, Stop Sign and Max. 30 km speed.

Designated Truck Route from Gavel Pit at 795 South Rd. to Dempsey Rd. which can also be used as an emergency escape route.

Organized and submitted by: Jan Moore 955 Dirksen Road

Name	Address	Signature
JAN MOORE		
Tony BRIDGE		
MONICA LOEW		
Marty McBride		
MARIA & FRANCO SCARFONE		
Susan Yeend		

Roger Christie	
R Kelly	
Donna	
Kirsten Halkett	
JAMES GAUTHIER	
NOORUDDIN KHORASI	
SONAL KHORASI	
Alex Kumda.	
Carmen Isfeld	
Chris DONALDSON	

COMMENTS: I would like to know why the South Rd entrance where approval was given is not used to access the gravel pit. I am worried about the residential road that has bends, hills a camber that vehicles have previously gone into the ditch in front of my house.

My granddaughter and I have had to try and cover our face from the toxic dust that has come off the gravel truck as they have a cover on that is at least 6" above the truck box & gets out a cloud of dust even at low speed. I also find the noise disturbing. S.m.j. I would like a response please, thank you!

This once quiet, high-density neighbourhood has turned into a high-speed, high traffic industrial zone - with only one route in and out. Jm.

Pro →

Road conditions: Pot holes have escalated
and roads fallen from trucks on Roadway -
Would like trucks to alternate routes along
Pat Burns or South Rd. JMM