
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 31, 2001
File No.: 5400-02
To: City Manager
From: Transportation Manager
Subject: **Potential Cascia Drive – Fuller Road Connection**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the City of Kelowna undertake the construction of a pedestrian and cyclist bridge across Bellevue Creek, connecting Fuller Road to Cascia Drive, in 2002.

BACKGROUND:

The recent development approval process for the property that is presently addressed at 4566 Fuller Road (referred to as the Capozzi property, Plan 51249 Lot A) has generated an opportunity to upgrade the roadway network in the Collett Road/Walker Road residential areas, by creating a link across Bellevue Creek. This link has been envisioned in the City's Official Community Plan as well as the North Mission/ Crawford Sector Plan for a number of years. The notion of advancing implementation of this connection in 2001 has some significant concerns with some members of the affected community. Over the last several months, the Transportation Division has been engaged in a consultation effort to seek resolution to these concerns.

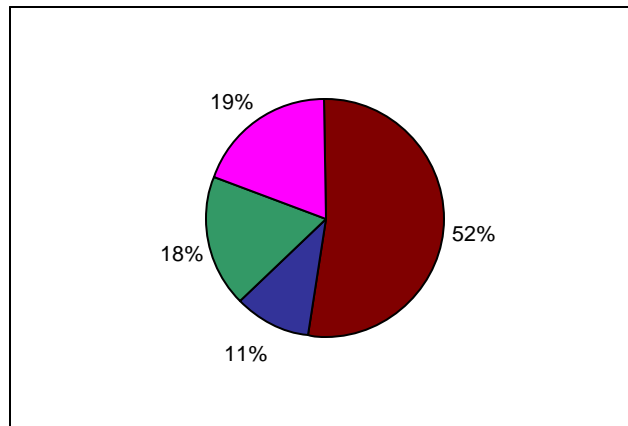
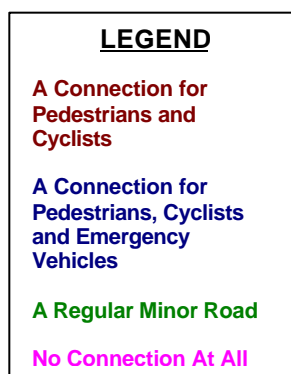
In May of 2001, the Transportation Division met with the neighbourhoods on both the north and south sides of the creek, and then with a select Focus Group in June of 2001, in an effort to further integrate Community feedback into the decision making process. Generally, the Focus Group is opposed to the creation of a vehicular roadway link in this area, citing concerns based on neighbourhood tranquility and security and the potential for increased traffic volumes. It was then agreed that a Bulletin would be generated and circulated to both Communities (north and south sides of the Creek) to discuss the issue and solicit opinion on a range of potential options.

Community Transportation Bulletin

A Community Transportation Bulletin was generated and circulated to the residents of Collett Road, Bellevue Road, Farris Road and Fuller Road on the south side of Bellevue Creek, and Walker Road (south of Eldorado), Knowles Road, Cascia Drive, Duke Court, Apsey Road, Eldorado Road and Carona Crescent on the north side of the Creek. A total of approximately 175 bulletins were sent out this past September, soliciting feedback on the following options:

- Option #1 – Build a Pedestrian and Cyclist Connection
- Option #2 – Same as Option #1, but Allow for Emergency Vehicle Access as Well
- Option #3 – Build a Regular Minor Road Connection as Planned
- Option #4 – No Connection At All

In response, 113 notices were received, and the associated preferences for creek crossing options are as noted below:



As noted above, the majority preference is to create a pedestrian and cyclist connection across Bellevue Creek connecting Fuller Road to Cascia/Walker Road.

DISCUSSION:

The community consensus on this issue is clear, a vehicular connection across Bellevue Creek is not deemed to be desirable or appropriate by the majority of the area residents at this point in time. This consensus comes with the full knowledge of the rationale behind creating the link, as outlined in the Bulletin circulated to the Community.

While opposition to the vehicle link is evident, 52% of the respondents did indicate support for the creation of a pedestrian and cyclist connection. The ability to create such a connection should not be underestimated, as it offers a sound network alternative to using Lakeshore Road for pedestrians and cyclists. Such a connection is consistent with the City's desire to advance and support opportunities for those choosing alternative transportation modes.

Other Issues Raised

As the response sheet circulated did include an opportunity to provide general comment, a number of associated issues were identified which are summarized and offered below for information.

A small percentage of the respondents on the north side of Bellevue Creek expressed a desire to see Cascia Drive connected to Lakeshore Road and/or Apsey Road connected to Carona Crescent, primarily in an effort to more evenly distribute traffic and circulation throughout the neighbourhood (Apsey presently only connects to Carona Crescent via a pedestrian pathway). In both cases, the ROW exists to achieve these links, however, the Transportation Bulletin did not specifically solicit feedback on these potential scenarios. As a result, while it is possible to consider the merits of such suggestions at this point, it would not be appropriate to advance decisions on such options until additional input is sought from the affected property owners. It is quite likely that significant opposition to these concepts exists that has not been expressed.

However, for discussion purposes, the following is offered:

- Connecting Apsey Road to Carona Crescent would increase the amount of traffic using Knowles Road to gain access to Lakeshore Road. As the amount of traffic which would ultimately be diverted is relatively small, so is the benefit. The introduction of additional traffic to this location is considered to be a negative impact given the proximity of this intersection to the signalized intersection at Eldorado Road. Closely spaced intersections, particularly when one is signalized, can pose safety concerns from an operational perspective, and can negatively affect arterial (Lakeshore) capacity. Provided the traffic volumes can be handled at the signalized Eldorado intersection, which they can, neighborhood traffic should continue to be directed to this location to the extent possible. If the movements at the Knowles/Lakeshore intersection were to be limited to right-turn movements only, many of the negative impacts associated with closely spaced intersections could be eliminated, however, even less traffic would be diverted to Knowles/Lakeshore, further reducing the benefit of connecting Apsey to Carona. Also, an ancillary issue arises when diverting northbound traffic originating on Knowles to Walker Road and Eldorado Road, creating more friction with residents in those areas. As the need for the link is not deemed to be critical at this point in time, the disruption to the residents adjacent to Apsey Road is difficult to justify.
- Presently, the City of Kelowna owns property at 499 Cascia Drive (Plan 45849 Lot 22), between the eastern end of Cascia Drive and Lakeshore Drive. This property has been held in an effort to preserve the option of allowing for alternate neighborhood access to Lakeshore Road in the future, should another means of providing access not be possible. As a result of not achieving a Fuller-Cascia connection, preservation of this option should continue. A right-turn only intersection with Lakeshore Road would offer the residents of the southern portion of this neighbourhood an alternate access, with some of the potential benefits as described previously.

Other issues were raised, which have been referred to Staff for consideration. These include:

- Requests for sidewalks and traffic calming on Walker Road (these will be considered within the contexts of both the Sidewalk Network Master Plan and the Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy, respectively),
- Requests for a traffic control signal installation at the Collett Road and Lakeshore Road intersection (this issue will be considered in the context of traffic control signal warrants), and

- Concerns regarding traffic conditions (ie. speed and volume) on Eldorado Road (this will be considered within the context of the Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy).

CONCLUSION:

Based on the community feedback received to date and the general nature of the issue, the Transportation Division concurs with the majority neighbourhood response to the survey, and recommends the installation of a pedestrian and cyclist connection across Bellevue Creek, connecting Fuller Road to Cascia/Walker Roads during the 2002 construction season.

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