
CITY OF KELOWNA
MEMORANDUM

Date: June 3, 2004
File No.: 5400-15
To: City Manager
From: Director of Works and Utilities
Subject: Rutland Senior Secondary School Access

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve funding support to School District #23 in the amount of \$60,000 toward the construction of a new driveway access to Rutland Senior Secondary School;

AND THAT the funding be transferred from unspent General Revenue funds in various delayed 2004 Transportation Projects.

DISCUSSION:

School District 23 is proceeding with the construction of an addition to the Rutland Senior Secondary School to replace portable classrooms. As part of that expansion they have revisited the access to their parking lot and planned a new driveway access via Bach Road. Recognizing the history of access concerns to this school's parking lot from Rutland Road North they have requested a financial contribution for this driveway since it also addresses longer term city traffic needs.

Access to this school has been of concern since the new building was constructed some 7 years ago. Prior to the new school facility joint use of the City's recreational complex parking was the primary parking area. With increased student populations, Athan's Aquatic Center expansion, Kokanee Gym development and Arena expansions it was decided to construct a separate lot for school. Access via Rutland Road was approved by the City and the Provincial Ministry of Highways as the road was a provincial secondary highway. Concerns were expressed at that time regarding the safety of the access due to the ever increasing volumes of traffic on Rutland Rd N. In 2000 the City installed medians to limit access to a left turn bay into and right in right out of the parking lot. The City permitted continued use of the city recreation facility parking since the Rutland Road access did not meet needs of all students and staff. Over 11 different options were considered for improved access to the parking lot. These included a traffic signal on Rutland Road N. for the parking lot and various new accesses to the parking lot from other locations though no action was taken.

Rutland Road North is anticipated to be expanded to a four lane roadway without center medians within the next five years. This impacts the school through additional parking access restrictions to right in right out only as well as the loss of bus loading on Rutland Road North. Recognizing these factors and the need for bus loading, the School District has identified a new driveway to Bach Road as the best alternative. They have purchased the property for the access and intend to proceed with construction this year. Their design involves extensive berms and landscaping to minimize impact on abutting property owners. Attached is the proposed driveway design.

One of the access options previously considered was a traffic signal access on Rutland Road N. This was not preferred by City staff due to the close proximity to the Leathead/Bach Rd intersection. It would have resulted in a loss of road capacity during the afternoon peak of up to 30% of Rutland Rd's capacity with resultant backups into the intersections. The cost of this signal would be approximately \$120,000. City staff supported the Bach Road access as the most preferred option as it was the safest of all options and ensured the best capacity on Rutland Rd N. It also provides benefit to Bach Rd. residential properties east of the access with reduced traffic to and from the city recreation facility parking lots.

Staff feels that on a one time basis, some contribution to this new access is in order recognizing the history of decisions with the school parking lot and its access as well as the longer term benefits to Rutland Road. We therefore recommend participation in the amount of 50% of the equivalent value of the traffic signal costs. Funding is available from various 2004 Transportation projects that are delayed primarily due to land acquisition issues and other factors.

John Vos

cc. Transportation Manager
Financial Planning Manager