

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011**

**CIRCULATED REPORT  
FOR AGENDA**

**PAGES**

***TRANSPORTATION AND SOLID WASTE SERVICES***

**TRANSIT**

2-5

Highway 19A Speed Limit.



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**TO:** Carol Mason  
Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** July 8, 2011

**FROM:** Dennis Trudeau  
General Manager of Transportation and Solid Waste

**FILE:** 1280-01

**SUBJECT: Highway 19A Speed Limit**

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to review the speed limits on Highway 19A within Electoral Area (EA) 'G' between Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park and the City of Parksville boundary at the Englishman River Bridge (*Appendix A*).

## BACKGROUND

At the June 28, 2011 Board meeting the following motion was passed:

*That staff bring back a report to the next Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the speed limit on Highway 19A south of Parksville boundary.*

Highway 19A, which is known locally as the Oceanside Route or the Old Island Highway, is composed of the original alignments of Highway 19 within the City of Nanaimo and between Craig's Crossing and the City of Campbell River.

The section of Highway 19A between Craig's Crossing (intersection south of City of Parksville boundary) and the Town of Qualicum Beach has speed limits that vary in some sections between 50 km/h and 70 km/h. The section immediately south of the City of Parksville has a speed limit of 60 km/h, which changes to 50 km/h inside the City of Parksville boundary. A map has been provided by City of Parksville staff (*Appendix B*) that displays this section of highway.

It has been indicated to staff that the RCMP has concerns about this section due to the number of intersections and the nature of the transportation needs in this area. The area has a high tourism use, connects residential areas and has varied modes of transportation using the road network, which range from pedestrian traffic to large transport vehicles. Lower speeds would improve safety over this stretch of highway and encourage more diversified modes of transportation.

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) does not regulate speed limits. The MOTI has the regulatory authority to set speed limits in the electoral areas. The RDN has the option to submit a formal request to the MOTI to undertake a review of the speed limits within this section of highway corridor and determine if the speed limit is appropriate or should be lowered to 50 km/h.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. That a letter be sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting that the Ministry undertake a review of the speed limit on the section of Highway 19A, which is in Electoral Area 'G' between Rathtrever Beach Provincial Park and the City of Parksville boundary at the Englishman River bridge, to determine if the speed limit should be reduced to 50km/h.
2. That alternate direction be provided to staff.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial impacts to Alternative 1.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Slower, calmer traffic yields safer, more comfortable cycling and walking conditions. In the case at hand a 50km/h speed limit along the Highway 19A corridor through Parksville and Electoral Area 'G' will improve cycling connectivity between central Parksville and the beaches, resorts and other community amenities surrounding Rathtrever Beach Provincial Park. The slower speeds may also encourage other modes of transportation such as neighbourhood zero emission vehicles, which would reduce greenhouse gas production.

## SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The City of Parksville has informally asked the RDN to request the Province to consider reducing the speed limit on Highway 19A, between Rathtrever Beach Provincial Park and the City of Parksville at the Englishman River bridge in Electoral Area 'G', to 50km/h. Lowering the speed limit on Highway 19A may improve the safety and connectivity of the community and enable the increased use of alternate modes of transportation, which could potentially reduce related greenhouse gas emissions.

The MOTI has the jurisdiction over speed limits in electoral areas and, where safety issues are identified, the Ministry will undertake a review to determine if a change is required. Staff recommend that the Board approve Alternative 1 to request the Ministry to undertake a review of the speed limit on this section of highway.

## RECOMMENDATION

That a letter be sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting that the Ministry undertake a review of the speed limit on the section of Highway 19A, which is in Electoral Area 'G' between the Rathtrever Beach Provincial Park and the City of Parksville boundary at the Englishman River bridge, to determine if the speed limit should be reduced to 50km/h.



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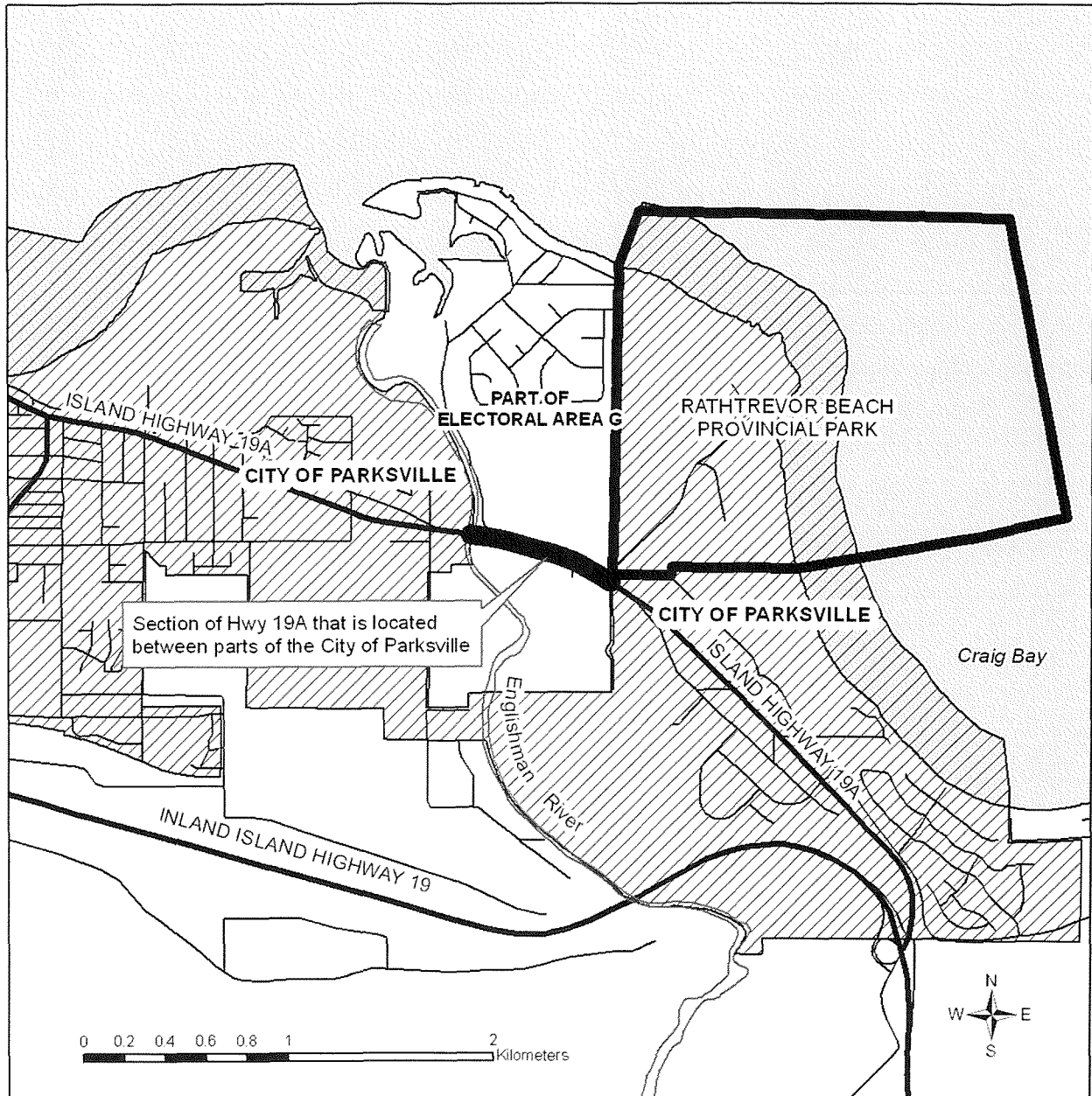
General Manager



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CAO Concurrence

**APPENDIX A**



**APPENDIX B**

