

Wallace Drive Improvements

Saanich is reviewing options for improvements to Wallace Drive and consulting with Central Saanich, local stakeholders, and members of the public. Saanich is currently in early investigation stages of determining various options for improvements including reviewing the feasibility of changes to the roadway operations. Options include full or partial closures, one-way traffic operations, traffic calming measures, speed limit reduction, and vehicle use restrictions.

Recorded speeds on Wallace Drive regularly exceed 60km/h which contributes to a feeling of discomfort for vulnerable users. Wallace Drive is currently identified in phase 3 of the Saanich Speed Limit Establishment Policies implementation to have the speed limit reduced to 40km/h. This is expected to go to Saanich Council for adoption this spring with implementation beginning in the summer.

Wallace Drive was identified for pavement resurfacing in summer 2024 but was found to have substandard subgrade so a consultant was hired to complete an evaluation to help inform resurfacing plans. The final report has been received but final plans for resurfacing have not been finalized.

We anticipate additional consultation to occur with stakeholders this spring with further community consultation to begin later in the year.



District of Saanich

Engineering Department
Transportation and Development
Services Division
3500 Blanshard St
Victoria, BC
V8X 1W3

Phone: 250-475-5575

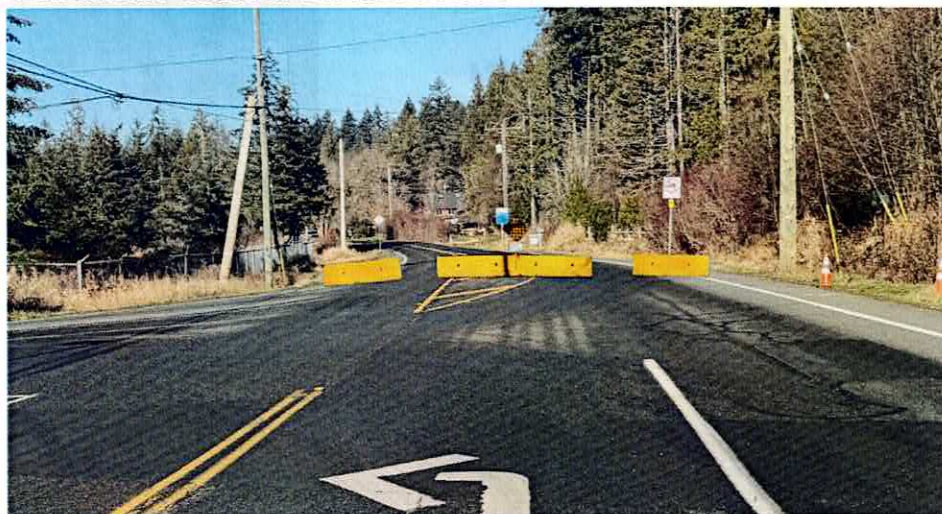
Email: engineering@saanich.ca



Wallace Drive Concepts



Full closure south of Durrance Road



Full closure north of Willis Point Road



North bound vehicles only with bidirectional multi-use trail

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Issues:

The transition from the terminus of the Interurban Rail Trail onto Wallace Drive will remain problematic for users traveling north along the corridor, with a difficult crossing and multiple conflict points for those users exiting the trail. Those heading south on the trail have an easy transition from the road shoulder to the trail, however, bike lanes proposed for Wallace at this location reach only a few dozen meters towards Willis Point Road in the project plans, with no indication that the project will extend those to connect with the bicycle lanes extending southeast from Willis Point Road that are noted in the project illustrations.

Wallace Drive has a modest horizontal curve as it leaves West Saanich Road, and a wider swath of land currently used as an informal parking lot for those accessing the super-mailboxes on site. Project plans show a new location for the mailboxes elsewhere on the site, but no indication of any change in use or exploration of road alignment opportunities that the property might otherwise offer to expand the scope of changes that could provide better levels of service for trail users. Altering the curve along Wallace to open up space alongside the southeast bound lane for extension of the rail trail should be explored.

Extension of the rail trail from Wallace/West Saanich northwards to Willis Point Road could provide trail users with some relief from the intersection conflicts, as well as offer them an off-road extension to keep clear of heavy traffic that turns at Willis Point Road. It would require re-thinking crossing movements across Willis Point and leaves the issue of a narrow cross section of Wallace Drive north of Willis Point unaddressed, but consideration might be given to opportunities to better provide for those using the rail trail.

Longer term fixes needed for Wallace Drive, north to Benvenuto and thereby access to Butchart Gardens will be subjected to further analysis, as opportunities for a more accommodating road profile or off-road options are explored.

Saanich Active Transportation Plan:

There are no references to the identified intersections in the plan.

See project plans for three intersections here:

[Current Capital Projects | CRD](#)

[240515 hartland w saanich public info r2 33614.pdf](#)

MIND THE GAP SYNOPSIS

Willis Point at Wallace, Hartland Landfill Access Projects

- Key ask among participants identifying issues here was for, new crossing treatments and other design features to better support pedestrian movements across West Saanich, where transit stops are located on either side of the road.
- The Interurban Rail Trail crosses Hartland a few dozen meters west of West Saanich Road and the trail crossing will be improved to provide a safer and more comfortable experience for trail users.