

Lochside Dr Traffic Calming Upgrades Survey Results

A public engagement survey was conducted for residents on Lochside Dr about the proposed traffic calming upgrades between Cordova Bay Rd and Claremont Ave. The survey was run from April 1, 2025 to April 30, 2025 and feedback was received from 160 respondents. The results of the survey are shared in this document along with common questions and concerns.

43% 

of respondents **WALK** on Lochside Drive **at least 4 times a week**

16% 

of respondents **BIKE** on Lochside Drive **at least 4 times a week**

69% 

of respondents **DRIVE** on Lochside Drive **less than 8 times a week**

48% of respondents **are deterred** from walking or cycling on the current roadway

31% of respondents feel vehicle speeds are **too high**



68% of respondents feel that the existing measures alone **have not had a major effect** on vehicle speeds

52% of respondents are **in support of additional speed humps** along Lochside to reduce vehicle speeds



52% of respondents feel that **additional speed humps would be effective** in reducing vehicle speeds

What we learned from the community: **Common questions and concerns**

Concern: The stop signs at Lochside and Walema should be reinstalled.

The stop signs for traffic travelling on Lochside Drive at the Walema Ave intersection were recently removed with the intention of supporting and prioritizing efficient use of the Lochside Regional Trail while increasing intersection compliance. This intersection was thoroughly reviewed against the District's Stop Sign Policy and the Transportation Association of Canada's guidelines, which consider traffic volumes (pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles), collision history, and delay times. Both the District's Policy and national guidelines are clear that **stop signs should not be used as a traffic calming device**.

In this case, staff observed that Lochside at Walema was a 4-way stop that had very low compliance from North-South traffic (cyclists and drivers), which typically means the traffic control treatment is unwarranted. Unwarranted stop signs can create an expectation of compliance that is not met, increasing risk rather than reducing it. As a result of this review, we determined that the removal of the North-South stop signs was warranted.

As part of the changes at this intersection, vegetation trimming was completed along Lochside Drive on both approaches to the intersection to improve sightlines for vehicles turning off Walema Ave. We do recognize that the stop bar for vehicles traveling on Walema Ave is set back from the intersection, however, it was observed on site that an adequate line of sight can be achieved from Walema Ave to both directions of traffic travelling on Lochside Drive.

Concern: The existing speed humps do not slow down vehicles. More will not either.

Traffic calming measures such as speed humps are most effective when used in succession and placed at roughly equal spacing along a roadway. Therefore, for Lochside Dr between Cordova Bay Rd and Claremont Ave, to adequately space speed humps to reduce vehicle speeds, we will be installing an additional 4 speed humps.

To align with Vision Zero, Saanich is taking steps towards the goal understanding that human error is inevitable and that a safe system approach, including setting appropriate speed limits, is required. Speed is one of the leading causes of death on BC roads and studies indicate that lowering speed limits contributes to creating calmer, quieter streets while enhancing safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Slower speeds afford drivers more reaction time, thereby diminishing the likelihood of severe or fatal incidents involving motor vehicles and vulnerable road users. When incidents do happen that involve a vehicle travelling at 50km/h and a pedestrian, the pedestrian only has a 20% chance of survival whereas at 40km/h or 30km/h the chance of survival is increased to 68% and 90% respectively.

Question: Why is Saanich not considering a sidewalk?

Lochside Drive acts as a shared street, where pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicles all share the roadway. Many shared streets do not have sidewalks and instead have low vehicle speeds to ensure the safety of vulnerable road users. The proposed traffic calming is intended to support this in creating a slow shared environment.

One of the policy items included in the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan mentions that improvements made to Lochside Drive in the future should seek to reduce user conflict while retaining the rural character, treed landscape, and narrow, intimate road width. To help achieve this, and create a lower volume, slower speed roadway, traffic calming measures such as additional speed humps are being installed. This change will come ahead of a more comprehensive engagement on Lochside Drive before 2030 where changes with larger impacts will be considered.

Many Saanich residents do not feel safe walking, cycling or rolling on Saanich streets. Through reductions in traffic speed and volumes (and in combination with improvements to active transportation facilities), traffic management, which includes traffic calming, will help address safety concerns and encourage more people to walk or cycle.

Concern: The issue is not vehicle speeds, but the number of vehicles on Lochside. A vehicle closure should be considered at Doumac Ave. This would allow active transportation users to continue on the trail while limiting vehicle traffic.

In the longer term, Lochside Drive is identified as a Short-Term Priority for upgrades in the Active Transportation Plan, meaning the entire length of Lochside Drive will have upgrades completed by 2030.

A closure for vehicles at Doumac Ave is a change that would have further reaching impacts than to only those located on Lochside Dr. These types of projects have very significant effects on travel within and adjacent neighbourhoods and can have unintended consequences.

To modify the roadway in this way would require a traffic study to determine the impacts to traffic flow and how this would impact neighbouring roadways. This closure could be something that would be considered as part of the larger look at the entire length of Lochside Dr in the coming years. This will allow time to properly review and consider the effect of a vehicle closure in this area. We appreciate the suggestion for a closure at Doumac, and it will be considered as a part of this larger project.

Concern: The crosswalk at Lochside and Walema should be a raised crosswalk.

The objective is to slow down traffic as they approach Walema from both directions. Many vehicles travel Northbound on Lochside Dr and make a right turn onto Walema Ave. A raised crosswalk would not provide any measures to slow down vehicles who are making this right turn. To ensure that both directions of travel are being slowed on the approach to this intersection, speed humps will be installed North and South of Walema. This will create a slower speed area for pedestrians to continue to use the existing crosswalk.

Question: Can speed cushions be installed instead of speed humps to allow for bike passage?



A speed hump is one solid raised area that spans the entire width of the roadway. This requires all types of traffic to pass over the hump to lower their speed.



Speed cushions are speed humps that have one or two cutouts to allow for cyclists to pass through without having to travel over the hump.

The existing traffic calming on Lochside Drive are speed humps. The width of the roadway is narrow, which would make speed cushions less effective at reducing speeds and increase the potential for conflicts between road users. Therefore, to remain consistent with the existing infrastructure, as well as to slow speeds of both motor vehicles and cyclists, speed humps will be installed.

Concern: There needs to be increased enforcement on Lochside Drive. This includes enforcement for cyclists and large cycle groups.

A person operating a bicycle on a highway has the same rights and duties as the driver of a vehicle. We have shared the request for bicycle enforcement on Lochside Dr with the Saanich Police Department for consideration as resources allow.

Concern: The inconsistent parking restrictions on Lochside Dr make it difficult and cause conflicts between pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists. Can parking be removed?

The parking along Lochside is currently being reviewed to determine if small sections need to be restricted to avoid conflicts within the roadway.

Concern: The existing pedestrian pathway needs to be better maintained.

We have shared this request with our Public Works Department to have this pathway added to the schedule for regular maintenance. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.