



Wesbrook Place Traffic Update – October 17, 2012

Recent changes to road signs and one-way conversion in Wesbrook Place have given rise to concerns from the broad UBC community and Wesbrook Place residents. The following issues relating to these changes have been identified by members of the community over the last few weeks:

1. Excessive speeding and concerns about pedestrian safety in crosswalks
2. Elimination of stop signs
3. Addition of stop signs
4. One-way street
5. Failure to observe new one-way restrictions

UBC Transportation Planning and UNA staff have been working to address these issues.

Actions being taken:

- At a site visit in early October, changes and additions to signs and barriers in Wesbrook Village to address outstanding traffic and safety issues associated with the one-way conversion were identified. Implementation is underway.
- In October, an automatic speed counter was installed on Wesbrook Mall north of Birney, and four intersection counts will be undertaken as part of a traffic calming study. In response to concerns from residents about use of Wesbrook by commuters, a license plate analysis is being added to the October traffic study in this area. Results of the study will be available in late October for further discussion with the community.
- In November 2012, staff from UBC Transportation Planning, UNA and UBC Properties Trust will review data collected through site visits and the automatic speed counter and prepare a report that could include changes (e.g. additional traffic calming measures and enhancements to pedestrian crosswalks) to address problems identified by the evidence. This follows up on a site visit that took place in October.

Background:

One way conversion of Berton Avenue from Wesbrook Mall to Shrum Lane

The one-way conversion of Berton Ave to Shrum Lane is intended to reduce congestion at the roundabout on West 16th Avenue by eliminating the requirement for vehicles to stop before entering the roundabout, except for pedestrians at the pedestrian crossing that remains in place at the corner of Berton and Wesbrook.

These amendments to road circulation were designed in collaboration between UBC's transportation consultant and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

The traffic pattern changes were discussed during the public consultation process for the Wesbrook Neighbourhood plan amendments in 2011 at two open houses, an information



meeting (approximately 150 people total attendance for all events) and online (over 200 unique page views).

The conversion was dependent upon the installation of the second two-way street linking the southwest corner of the surface parking lot in Wesbrook Village to Birney Avenue (Shrum Lane). This road and Birney Ave. recently became passable and the conversion was implemented.

Associated signage changes in Wesbrook Village and on Wesbrook Mall, and an extension of the curb on one-way Berton to obstruct eastbound traffic, were recommended as part of the conversion.

Installation and removal of 4 way stops along Wesbrook

In 2006, UBC's transportation consultant prepared a plan of intersection traffic controls and traffic calming measures for Wesbrook Place for UBC Properties Trust. As part of the preparations for this plan, two open houses were held and attended by over 100 people. Various stakeholder groups were also consulted, including the UNA. The plan indicated one 4-way stop at Berton and Wesbrook Mall only.

Over the years, additional traffic control signs and regulatory parking signs have been installed in Wesbrook Place in response to immediate issues and concerns without a comprehensive review of the issues. In the case of stop signs, this has generally been in response to complaints about speeding vehicles.

In response to complaints about the excessive number of 4-way stops along Wesbrook Mall, all 4 way-stops, except at the intersection of Wesbrook and Ross, were removed pending completion of a speed/traffic study. This study will assess the nature of issues along the road and develop traffic calming proposals.