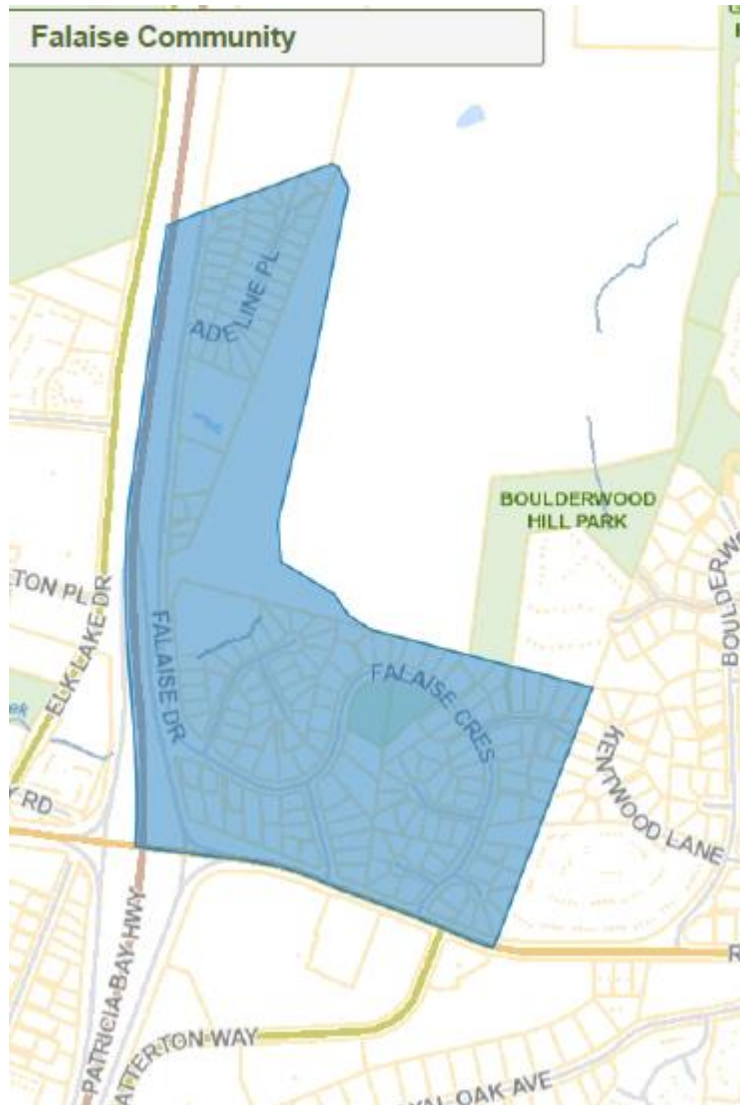


The Falaise Community Association

The Falaise community was started in the spring of 1957, when the first housing lots were offered for sale. The Falaise community was expanded in the 1980s and 1990s. A major subdivision in 1989 resulted in the creation of Royal Wood Place and Court. In 1989 and 1990, there were subdivisions along the northern part of Falaise Drive, allowing for the houses there and on Adeline Place. The community has also grown through infill, with new houses going in beside or behind the original 1957 homes.



The Falaise Community Association (FCA) was formed in 1959, soon after the first houses were built. Over the years the FCA has grown with the community but, with only 175 homes, it is Saanich's smallest community association. The Royal Oak Burial Park and two funeral homes are also in the area. The purpose of the FCA is to enhance the quality of life for the residents of

the Falaise Community. The association represents the community's interests on local issues such as noise impacts, rezoning applications, roadway signage, and brings neighbours together to socialize because we believe that neighbours who know each other can help each other in times of need.

While the Pat Bay Highway adjacent to our Community provides us with good access to the airport, ferries, and downtown, the very significant increase in traffic noise is affecting us all, and we would like to see some attenuation measures installed to alleviate the noise impacts on the Community.

Noise Impacts on the Falaise Community Generated by the Pat Bay Highway

Background

The Falaise Community is located in the north east quadrant of the Pat Bay Highway/ Royal Oak Interchange. Traffic levels on the Pat Bay Highway at, or near the Royal Oak Interchange, built in 1970, have significantly increased such that the Highway is now producing unacceptable noise levels affecting the quality of life and real estate values for the residents living on, or near, Falaise Drive.

The residential community was established when the Highway was only two lanes. It is now a four-lane controlled access highway, where traffic volumes near the Royal Oak interchange have more than doubled, increasing from 27,000 vehicles /day in 1970 to 58,000 vehicles /day in 2016.

In 1993 the first Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Noise Policy was created for assessing and mitigating noise impacts for new and up-graded numbered highways. In 1970 (MoTI), formerly the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, did not have a noise policy.

We have had some initial promising discussions with our local MLA the Honourable Lana Popham regarding the need for a noise attenuation barrier with details discussed below.

Current Status

At the Falaise Community Association (FCA) Annual General Meeting in November last year, Lana Popham said she would help our Community to get a noise abatement barrier installed to decrease highway noise. (The noise wall or barrier would be required on the east side of the Pat Bay Highway from just north of the Pat Bay /Royal Oak Interchange northerly for 800 metres approximately to the north end of the Falaise Drive housing development). She suggested that we start by getting residents to sign a petition asking for a barrier. (Ms. Popham said she would also be discussing with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) our concerns and Petition, and that there would be a subsequent public meeting to air our views and concerns).

In January and February this year the Falaise Community Association canvassed the Community in which there were 178 addresses. We spoke with people at 141 addresses of which 88% were in favour. Some reasons for people not signing are: that they did not want to get involved, or they grew up with much worse traffic noise and did not mind the present conditions.

We have sent the Petition results to Lana Popham. Lana Popham has spoken with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and she is planning a meeting between the Ministry, herself and the FCA in the near future to discuss our concerns, the Petition, and the next steps. Further work would include a public meeting, and which could also influence any further course of action.

For further details and up-dates, see the Falaise Community Association website at www.falaise.ca.