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# Traffic Noise and Parking Problem in the Falaise Community

Presentation to Saanich Council March 11, 2019

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Falaise Community Association



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## Today's Presentation:

1. Who we are
2. Our problems
3. Possible funding sources
4. Questions?



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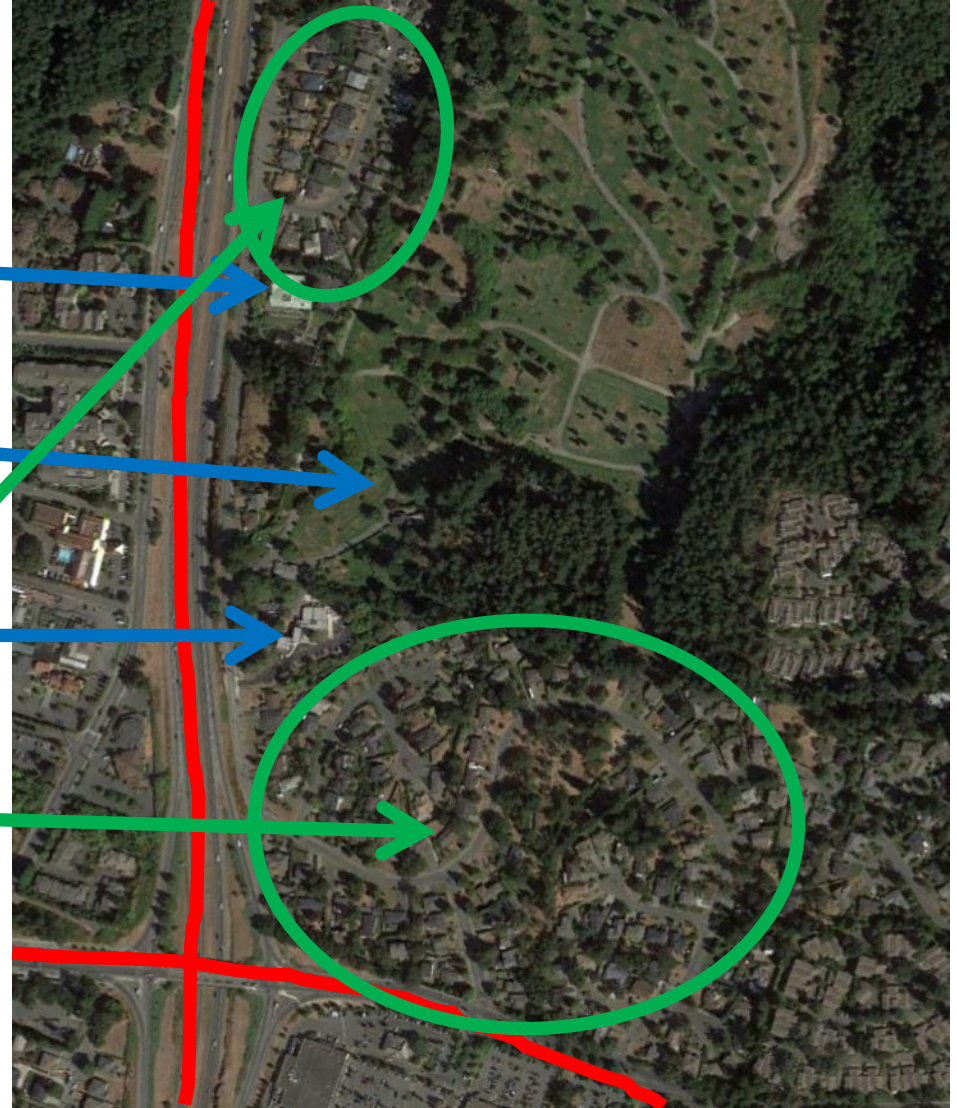
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First Memorial

Royal Oak Burial Park

McCall Gardens

Residences





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## Our Problems:

1. Noise from the Pat Bay Highway is bad and getting worse. It is negatively affecting the people who live in our community.
2. Street parking during large funerals is a safety problem for cars and pedestrians.



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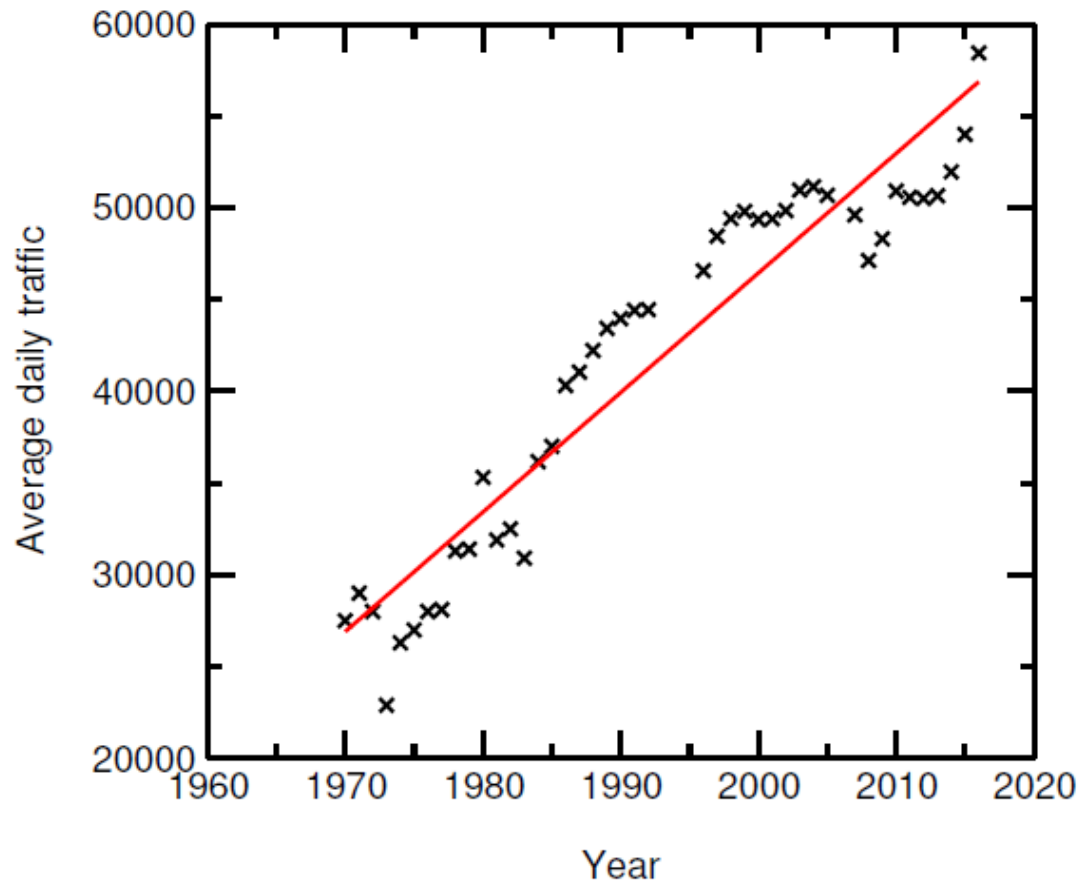






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## Problem 1: The Pat Bay Is Noisy – And Getting Noisier





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- Light trucks were 17% of market in 1970; now they make up 68% (DesRosier)
- Heavy vehicle traffic has increased at twice the rate of light vehicle traffic in the last 18 years (Stats Canada)
- Pat Bay is uphill, going north
- Long uphill acceleration on-ramp
- Southbound trucks use engine brakes



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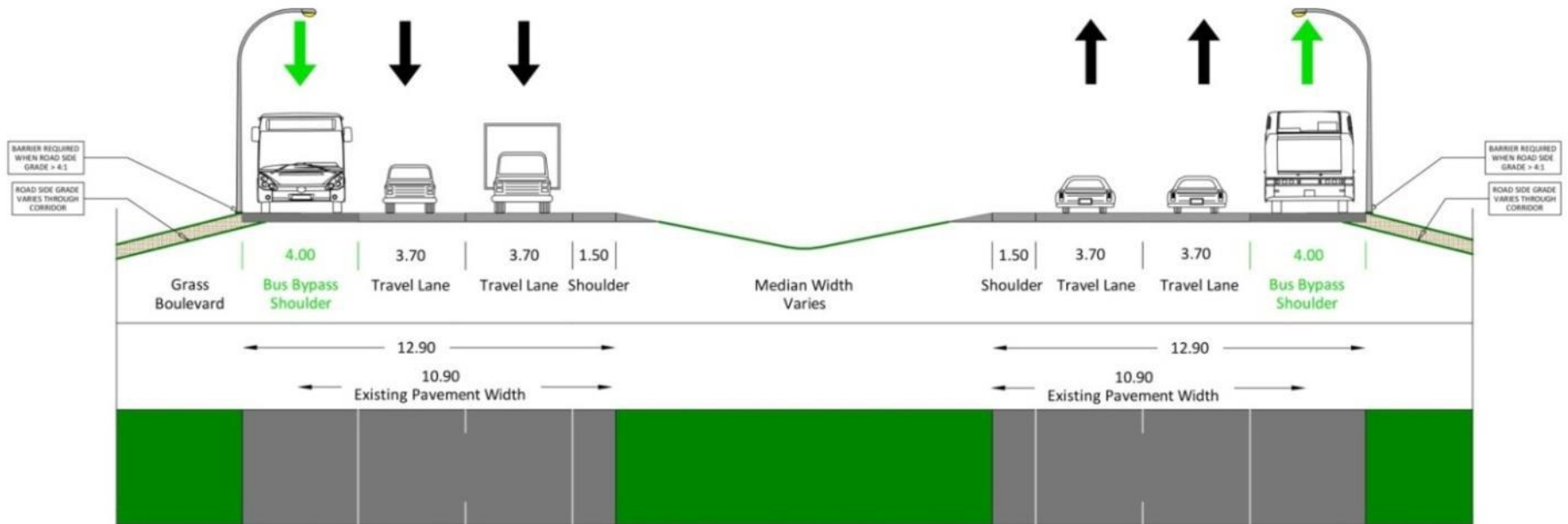
## Highway 17 Planning Study, 2014:

- Traffic volumes are highest between Sayward & Royal Oak Drive (= our community)
- Future peak volumes expected to increase significantly





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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure future plans  
include widening from 4 lanes to six!

Source: Highway 17 Planning Study March 2014



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## Problem #2 - Funeral Parking Is Dangerous:

During large funerals cars park on the street, sometimes illegally, sometimes on the sidewalk.





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## Existing Situation:

- Both problems recognized in the Royal Oak Local Area Plan
- The District has no existing ability to fund improvements to Provincial highways
- MoTI does have a noise mitigation policy:
  - Applies only to new and widened highways
  - Does not apply retroactively
- FCA's latest request to MoTI has been turned down
- Lana Popham is supportive but needs help from Saanich



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## Solution To The Highway Noise Problem:

- Noise walls can reduce noise by at least a factor of 2
- Especially effective within 100 m
- Noise wall length ~1 km, no obvious engineering challenges
- Estimated cost: \$1.2 million



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## Solutions To The Parking Safety Problem:

- Portions of Falaise Drive have a dirt shoulder that could be widened to allow safer parking
- “Ball park” cost to make Falaise Drive safety & parking improvements: \$0.6 million



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## Possible Funding Solutions To Both Problems:

### 1. The 2014 New Building Canada Fund

- for projects that “improve the environment and support stronger, safer communities”
- Allocation-based & requires provincial prioritization
  - Saanich (so far as we know) has not yet accessed NBCF to fund Saanich priorities
- A noise wall could be funded 100% by senior governments



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## Possible Funding Solutions To Both Problems:

### 2. Gas Tax Funding

The project could be structured to include building the noise wall under NBCF and remediating the Falaise Drive safety issue with a portion of Saanich's share of the UBCM administered Gas Tax fund.

### 3. Staff may well be able to identify other mixes using these two, or other, sources.





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## Successful New Building Canada Fund & Gas Tax Applications Will Need To Include:

- FCA continuing its long time advocacy for the noise wall & Falaise Drive safety improvements
- Council resolving to support solving the two problems
- A Saanich application to the Province (MoTI) for prioritization of the noise wall for infrastructure funding and the UBCM for a Gas Tax allocation



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## Successful New Building Canada Fund & Gas Tax Applications Will Need To Include:

- Mayor, Council & staff working to further the application for prioritization with Saanich area MLA's Popham, Fleming, Dean & Weaver and their staffs
- Saanich's advocacy is crucial
  - in MLA Popham's efforts to have MoTI Minister Trevena prioritize the project for NBCF
  - to the UBCM for allocating Gas Tax funding



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Thank you for listening. We hope this is the beginning of a collaboration to solve these two problems.





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Questions?

