



April 7, 2026

Dear Council and Joel Clary,

On February 27, the Esquimalt Chamber of Commerce was asked by Joel Clary to provide some engagement and feedback on Esquimalt Road Active Transportation and Underground Utilities Improvement Project Phase Two.

As such we sent out a survey to our membership, and non-member businesses along the Esquimalt Road corridor between Joffre and Canteen. I also canvassed businesses along Esquimalt Road encouraging survey completion. As expected, underground utilities improvement was not front of mind for the respondents.

Below is a summary of the responses we received:

- 93% of respondents were aware of the changes to Esquimalt Road.
- Of those aware of the changes to Esquimalt Road.
 - 64% were not in favour of the changes
 - 28% were in favour of the changes.
 - 57% thought their business would be impacted negatively.
 - 14% thought their business would be impacted positively.
 - 20% did not expect their business to be impacted.

Respondents expressed the following concerns;

- **Parking and Business Impact:** Multiple respondents expressed concern that the proposed changes would take away parking from locals, elderly residents, and businesses, negatively impacting business operations due to reduced accessible access and challenging client parking.
 - Multiple respondents expressed concern that the changes, particularly the lack of parking and increased traffic, will negatively influence customer decisions, harm businesses, and make access difficult for the elderly, disabled, or others unable to access businesses on foot.
 - One business noted a projected loss of 18% in sales annually due to parking changes implemented this year.

- **Traffic Congestion and Safety:** Concerns were raised regarding increased traffic congestion, crowded roadways, and potential slowdowns for emergency vehicles. One respondent mentioned that this adds to the challenge of driving due to lane loss, citing issues already created elsewhere for minimal bike usage.
- **Bike Lane Placement and Design:** Several respondents questioned putting bike lanes on major roads instead of side roads and prioritizing them over businesses. One response specifically requested consistent bike lane width and adequate protection (1m from traffic) for cyclists, while another stated that protected lanes feel dangerous due to concrete barriers and limited space to maneuver or exit.
- **Alternative Transportation vs. Current Needs:** While some believe the changes are necessary for safer bike routes and alternatives to cars, noting there is plenty of parking, others argued that bike lanes should not take priority and questioned the necessity, as bikers "have their routes figured out" already.
- **Parking and Village Feel:** The inability to park is cited as a negative experience for customers, and street parking is viewed as contributing to a "village feel."
- **Support for Bike Lanes:** Some respondents are looking forward to the new protected bike lanes, believing they will make Esquimalt a more pleasant and accessible place to live, and likely increase ride-to-work participation, supporting sustainable commuting initiatives.
- **Opposition to Bike Lanes and Community Input:** Several people feel that the majority of the community and attendees at public meetings are against the bike lanes, and believe the council is not listening to the people living and working in the community.

Sincerley,

James Rogers

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