



Deep Roots
Greater Heights

District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:
Stephen Judd
Manager of Infrastructure Development
Tel: 604-467-7450
sjudd@mapleridge.ca

Major Road Construction Project Will Impact Maple Ridge Secondary School at Start of School Year

Maple Ridge, BC: On August 7, 2012, work began on the section of Mountainview Crescent and 122 Avenue between 216 Street and 222 Street. The project has been broken into phases with the first part of the project focused on the area directly in front of Maple Ridge Secondary School and west to 216 Street.

Residents of the area have already noted that this section of the road cannot be used as an east/west route for commuting, and until the project is completed in late November, there will be disruptions for parents, students and the school staff to varying degrees.

A comprehensive traffic management plan has been put in place for the first phase of the project, and will be implemented beginning on Tuesday, September 4 and remain in effect throughout the project. The map attached to this release outlines the areas that have been designated as drop-off zones for students, and the goal has been to create a flow to get the students to the school with the greatest emphasis on safety.

Arrangements have been made to deal with staff vehicles and the students who have mobility challenges to ensure that they can get onto the school site. The administration team at Maple Ridge Secondary School will work with staff and the affected students to ensure that they have the access information. All other vehicles will be diverted, with student loading and unloading happening in two specific areas.

The first drop-off and pick-up area is located on 124 Avenue in the area north of Merkley Park that borders the school site. The section of road in front of the park will be designated as a loading and unloading area, with no long-term parking. Flaggers and Bylaws staff will be on location to keep vehicles moving. Students will be able to walk to the school along the path system from 124 Avenue through the park and sports complex. This will be the best area for all parents to drop off and pick up students.

The second drop-off and pick-up area is located southeast of the school along 122 Avenue at the intersection of 121 Avenue and Dunbar Street. The other streets that intersect 122 Avenue, Acadia, Dover, 220 Street and York will all be closed to the public and designated for resident traffic. To create a safe flow of vehicles, traffic will be diverted at 222 Street south to Dewdney Trunk Road to ensure that vehicles accessing these temporary drop-off and pick-up areas are heading north on 121 Avenue and Dunbar Street to create better pedestrian safety. The map will help clarify this. The goal

is to create a common flow of traffic, such as the area in front of an airport, making it easier for the students walking in the area to keep track of traffic.

We would ask all parents and students to respect the property and access of area residents in these temporary drop-off and pick-up zones. The residents along the project have been very patient as the project has unfolded and staff and the construction contractor wish to thank them for their cooperation.

In the short term, the construction contractor will be concentrating on completing the sidewalks along the construction zone, with the paving for vehicles being the final stage of their work. Students walking to Glenwood Elementary School should divert from 122 Avenue to either Dewdney Trunk Road or 124 Avenue until the project is complete.

Mayor Daykin said, "I would like to commend the parents and students who attended the orientation on August 30, 2012 for having the patience to use the alternate drop-off and pick-up area. As a resident of this neighbourhood, I know that the project will cause some disruptions for the residents in the area, Maple Ridge Secondary School staff, parents and students, but the work that is being done will result in a far better pedestrian, cycle and road system for the entire community." He added, "The key to getting through this brief period of inconvenience is to leave a bit early, give yourself lots of time, be calm and patient. I've already adjusted my traffic pattern in the neighbourhood, and so I know that it takes a couple of days to get into a routine. Above all, please obey the traffic signs and flaggers and know that District staff will make adjustments to the traffic plan throughout the first few days to ensure the safety of students and staff."

The traffic safety plan and the project details are on the District website at mapleridge.ca. As the project construction continues updates will be made to the public on the District website and on the District's Facebook and Twitter feeds which are both called @yourmapleridge.

If you have questions regarding this project please call the District of Maple Ridge Engineering Department at 604-463-5221 during regular business hours.