

7 September 2023

To Langley City Mayor Nathan Pachal & Council,

On Canada Day this year, we were awoken at about 5:45am by the sound of a vehicle screaming down the 208 St hill followed by a loud crash. We immediately called 9-1-1, got dressed, grabbed some safety gear, and ran to the intersection of 48 & 208 where a pickup truck had crossed the median and spun around, its large utility trailer flipped on its side, and another vehicle had crashed through a hedge after crossing the sidewalk. Many people living within a block of that intersection helped ensure everyone was safe, directed traffic, and helped with the recovery, while waiting for emergency services. And we discussed how frequently such events occur. The 208 Street hill between 45 & 48 Ave is dangerous for drivers, pedestrians, and residents.

On BC Day, we decided to write a letter and find common cause with our neighbours to alert you to these dangers. We printed 240 copies and hand-delivered them to everyone between 207 & 209 Street and 45 & 48 Avenue. We posted a link to our letter on a Langley community Facebook page. Over the past four weeks, we've had multiple conversations with residents in this area either when we delivered this letter to them or when they delivered their signed copy to us. Many of these residents have lived here for over 20 years, and a number have been here for over 40 years. We heard many stories of crashes through fences and road racing. We heard from parents who tell their children to walk as far away from the road as possible when having to use the sidewalk and be ready to run. Parents feel they cannot safely send their children to school when they have to walk along 208 Street or cross it. Other solutions were suggested as well, such as a traffic circle at Grade & 208, narrowing lanes, or adding separated bicycle lanes.

Many have reported to us that they have brought these issues to the attention of city councillors, staff, and police over the decades, and were frustrated by the answers. We were thanked many times for taking the initiative to gather signatories for a joint letter.

And so we present to you the letter on the following pages with 86 signatures. We would welcome an invitation to present this letter and our concerns to a meeting of Council. Many signatories have provided us with their email addresses as well, so we can keep them informed of the progress of Council on addressing these concerns.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Arnold & Valerie Sikkema

22 (1) 207B St, Langley, BC V3A 7P1

31 August 2023

## A Public Appeal Regarding Concerns About 208 Street Hill in the City of Langley

To Langley City Mayor Nathan Pachal & Council,

We are residents of Langley City who live near the 208 St hill (between 207 and 209 St and between 45 and 48 Avenues as shown in this map), or are residents of the nearby area who cross or use this portion of 208 St frequently. We are writing to you to express safety concerns about the 208 St hill and request your action to resolve these concerns.



This section of roadway has four lanes of automobile traffic, two heading north and two heading south, with sidewalks on the west and east sides that are immediately next to the road with no gap except for a curb. The speed limit is 50 km/h. From time to time in recent years there have been a few automated radar speed signs set up, but these have not lasted due to damage, overhanging branches, or other failure. While there are some cars that drive slower than 60 km/h, a large number of vehicles of all kinds drive at far higher speeds, including many travelling over 80 or even 100 km/h **both uphill and downhill**, often with roaring engines. We have observed situations including the following:

- drivers spontaneously challenging each other for an uphill road race when the southbound traffic signal at 48 Ave turns green
- collisions and near misses at the intersection of 48 and 208 with excessive downhill speed being the main contributing factor, with vehicles often blowing through sidewalks as a result

- vehicles entering 208 St properly from driveways or from Grade Cres only to be crashed into unexpectedly by vehicles travelling at excessive speeds, 80 to 100 km/h or more
- difficulty of having a conversation outdoors near 208 St due to the roaring traffic
- dangerous U-turns have become common in this stretch of road after the City introduced barriers preventing left turns onto 208 St (from Grade Cres and from 47 Ave) in an attempt to reduce collisions at that intersection

We have never once observed a police speed trap set up, or any driver being stopped for speeding, on this hill. Speed traps have been set up along 208 St between 48 and 51B Ave, but these do not catch speeders *on the hill*. In response to earlier expressions of concern, responses by City staff or police officers have included the following:

- It is unsafe for police to enforce speed on the hill.
- Drivers can be excused for having to pick up speed to make it up the hill.
- People going downhill cannot be expected to stop or slow down.
- Vehicles naturally pick up speed when going downhill.

In response, we note the following:

- If it is truly unsafe for police, the sidewalks should be closed to all pedestrians.
- It is entirely possible to drive within the speed limit before and up the hill.
- Vehicles can slow down and stop using brakes.
- Vehicles can control speed using brakes.

Besides the vehicular danger, this stretch of road is unsafe for pedestrians. Residents experience this lack of safety when using bus stops (walking to and from them, waiting for the bus), walking to and from the church at 208 St & 48 Ave, Blacklock, H.D. Stafford, and Uplands schools, Wise Owl Montessori, the Wind & Tide preschools at Uplands and at the church, City Park, Al Anderson Pool, Langley Community Music School, the Dog Off Leash Parks in Uplands and City Park, etc., and just going for a walk on their own or with family and friends and dogs. Crossing 208 St at 48 Ave is risky due to downhill speeders running red lights. Since the next crossing at 45A Ave is 600 metres south of 48 Ave, quite a few pedestrians cross 208 St at Grade Cres / 47 Ave (especially to get to and from H.D. Stafford), despite its risk due to speeders in both directions.

This entire situation is unacceptable, and we humbly request that the City of Langley make it a high priority to work with the province, Township, and police to implement a solution promptly. This is particularly urgent as the population grows, and the City is advancing its plan to densify along 208 St with the expectation that more residents will use 208 St for public transit and walking. Furthermore, vehicular traffic is growing as the Township increases residential and commercial development south of the City.

Our suggestions to address this include the following:

- Install a traffic signal at Grade Cres and 208 St. (Some of us have been told this is not possible or safe. But one has only to look at cities like New Westminster, North Vancouver, and West Vancouver where there are steep hills with safe and effective traffic signals.) This signal would need to be accompanied by new signage and warning lights at the top of the hill.
- Enforce the speed limit along the 208 St hill. This can be done by a police officer operating speed radar from the sidewalk and a team of officers further along the street pulling offenders over.
- Introduce photo radar along this stretch of road.
- Install several new working signs showing both the speed limit and “your speed”
- Make the right-hand lane a bus-only and right-turn lane, as is done in some places in the downtown core.

We would like to invite you into a conversation about these matters. You could visit our homes, sit on our porches and patios near the 208 St hill, walk along the hill, and witness these challenges for yourselves. We are confident that you will corroborate our observations and trust that you will act swiftly to resolve this situation.

Thank you for your attention and for your service and leadership in the City of Langley.

Signed,

Original drafters: Arnold & Valerie Sikkema, 22 (1) 207B St

**84 additional signatories**, with names and addresses listed by their express consent, are listed on the following pages.

Cc:

- Hon. Andrew Mercier, MLA, [andrew.mercier.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:andrew.mercier.MLA@leg.bc.ca)
- Hon. John Aldag, MP [John.Aldag@parl.gc.ca](mailto:John.Aldag@parl.gc.ca)
- Hon. Rob Fleming, BC Minister of Transportation  
[Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca)
- David Wong, CEO of ICBC (% Brent Shearer [Brent.Shearer@icbc.com](mailto:Brent.Shearer@icbc.com))
- Kevin Quinn, CEO of Translink % [media@translink.ca](mailto:media@translink.ca)
- Eric Woodward, Mayor of Langley Township, [mayorcouncil@tol.ca](mailto:mayorcouncil@tol.ca)
- Superintendent Adrian Marsden, RCMP Langley Detachment Officer in Charge  
[langleyrcmp@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:langleyrcmp@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)
- Roxanne Hooper, Editor of Langley Advance Times,  
[editor@langleyadvancetimes.com](mailto:editor@langleyadvancetimes.com)

## The 86 Signatories

Number	Name	Address
1	Arnold Sikkema	22 (1) 207B St
2	Valerie Sikkema	22 (1) 207B St
3	Crystal Pudsey	22 (1) 46A Ave
4	Mike Pudsey	22 (1) 46A Ave
5	Landon Pudsey	22 (1) 46A Ave
6	Stuart Folan	22 (1) 49A Ave
7	Jim Ransom	22 (1) 207A St
8	Colleen Ransom	22 (1) 207A St
9	Tanya Ploss	22 (1) 46 Ave
10	Tyler Jackson	22 (1) 208 St
11	Claire Heard	22 (1) 205A St
12	Carly Schofield	22 (1) 202A St
13	Paul Schofield	22 (1) 202A St
14	Jillian Jesseau	22 (1) 207A St
15	Geoff Nelson	22 (1) 50A Ave
16	Geoff Straker	22 (1) 54 Ave
17	Raena Phelps	22 (1) 208A St
18	Sherri Martin	22 (1) 208A St
19	Svenje Duffield	22 (1) 45 Ave
20	Jovana Ivanovic	22 (1) 51A Ave
21	Stephen Butchart	22 (1) Grade Cr
22	Ron Trainor	22 (1) 48 Ave
23	Terri-Lou Trainor	22 (1) 0 48 Ave
24	Travis Anderson	22 (1) 48A Ave
25	Michelle Anderson	22 (1) 48A Ave
26	Laurie Shaw	22 (1) Newlands Dr
27	Nick Johnson	22 (1) 206A St
28	Kuljeet Sandhu	22 (1) 46A Ave
29	Harpal Sandhu	22 (1) 46A Ave
30	Manpreet Sandhu	22 (1) 46A Ave
31	Preetinder Sandhu	22 (1) 46A Ave

<b>Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
32	Jorawar Sandhu	22 (1) 46A Ave
33	Darryl Schives	22 (1) 207A St
34	Leah Shaw	22 (1) 207A St
35	Frank Shaw	22 (1) Newlands Dr
36	Ben Bowcott	22 (1) 207B St
37	Amanda Bowcott	22 (1) 207B St
38	Brent Leupen	22 (1) 208B St
39	Chelsea Hug	22 (1) 208B St
40	Doug Morelli	22 (1) 207A St
41	Heather Groot	22 (1) 208B St
42	Matt Groot	22 (1) 208B St
43	Nicole Paccagnan	22 (1) 207A St
44	Wally Martin	22 (1) 48 Ave
45	Stewart Judd	22 (1) 205 St
46	Anita McIver	22 (1) 207A St
47	Liam McIver	22 (1) 207A St
48	Cecil Erickson	22 (1) 215A St
49	Dana Baker	22 (1) 46 Ave
50	Jordan Alisch	22 (1) 46 Ave
51	Brent Brocklebank	22 (1) Uplands Dr
52	Judy Brocklebank	22 (1) Uplands Dr
53	Lori Marier	22 (1) 207A St
54	Pieter Mott	22 (1) 208 St
55	Guylaine Bérubé	22 (1) 48 Ave
56	Ray Hamel	22 (1) 209 St
57	Trudy Hamel	22 (1) 209 St
58	Neil MacKinnon	22 (1) 209 St
59	Christine MacKinnon	22 (1) 209 St
60	Harvey Fauser	22 (1) 209 St
61	Lorraine Fauser	22 (1) 209 St
62	Doreen Howes	22 (1) 207B St
63	Bryan Rain	22 (1) 45A Ave
64	Sandeep Rain	22 (1) 45A Ave

Number	Name	Address
65	Jerry Anderson	22 (1) Newlands Dr
66	Micki Anderson	22 (1) Newlands Dr
67	Jacqueline Ross	22 (1) Uplands Dr
68	Murray Ross	22 (1) Uplands Dr
69	Tobi Matilda	22 (1) 47 Ave
70	Shawn Matilda	22 (1) 47 Ave
71	Petr Jest	22 (1) 47 Ave
72	Fritz Wober	22 (1) 208 St
73	William Ulrich	22 (1) 48 Ave
74	Kelly Ulrich	22 (1) 48 Ave
75	Anastos Tsougrianis	22 (1) 208 St
76	Silvia Tsougrianis	22 (1) 208 St
77	Paul Frost	22 (1) 207 St
78	Werner Klassen	22 (1) 208B St
79	Joan Klassen	22 (1) 208B St
80	Kevin Klassen	22 (1) 209 St
81	Julie Klassen	22 (1) 209 St
82	John Meagher	22 (1) Uplands Dr
83	Joe Ozorio	22 (1) 208A St
84	Sherry Ozorio	22 (1) 208A St
85	Tim Ireland	22 (1) 209 St
86	Laura Ireland	22 (1) 209 St