



March 20, 2025

## Enhancing Community Mobility and Sidewalk Infrastructure

Dear Pemberton Council,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the current state of community mobility and sidewalk infrastructure in Pemberton. I believe that improvements in these areas are crucial for the safety, accessibility, and overall **well-being of all residents of Pemberton**.

### Issues at present:

**Uneven and Damaged Sidewalks:** Many sidewalks in our area are cracked, uneven, or obstructed by trees or roots, creating hazards for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility impairments, the elderly, and those using strollers or wheelchairs.

- **Sidewalks with an exaggerate lean:** Thought to help with snow removal and water. However, this is difficult to navigate for elderly and those with wheeled mobility.
- **Lack of Accessibility:** Insufficient curb ramps and crosswalks (with large hills in the center) at intersections make it difficult for individuals with disabilities to navigate safely.
- **Insufficient Lighting or Edge Definition:** Poorly lit sidewalks and pathways create safety concerns, especially during evening hours, discouraging pedestrian activity and potentially increasing the risk of accidents.
- **Obstructions and Overgrowth:** Overgrown vegetation, parked vehicles, and other obstructions often block sidewalks, forcing pedestrians into the street.
- **Lack of Connected Pathways:** Disconnected sidewalk segments and the absence of dedicated bike lanes or multi-use paths limit safe and efficient transportation options.

These issues not only impact the safety and convenience of pedestrians but also hinder the development of a vibrant and **inclusive community**. Mobility limitations have been associated with increased fall risk, hospitalization, a decreased quality of life, and even mortality.

I propose the following recommendations to address these concerns:

- **Sidewalk Repair and Maintenance:** Implement a proactive program for regular sidewalk inspection, repair, and maintenance, prioritizing areas with the highest pedestrian traffic and those serving vulnerable populations such as the Lyons Villa.
- **Accessibility Upgrades:** Install or upgrade curb ramps and crosswalks to meet accessibility standards, ensuring safe passage for individuals with mobility impairments.
  - The huge bumps in the middle of the crosswalks are a danger to public safety.
  - Walkers, wheelchairs, mobility chairs and even baby strollers have difficulty to maneuver them. (I've personally witnessed an 80+ person mobilizing down the middle of the road due to her inability to get across the cross walk).
  - A shared access between BC Hydro and VCH land to the Lyons Villa pathway with limited or gradual incline/decline and narrow enough that cars wouldn't access. Not sure this has ever been tried. (Not a path through a park lot pathway - that is what people are using now).

- **Enhanced Lighting and markings:** Improved street lighting along sidewalks and pathways to enhance visibility and safety during nighttime hours.
  - To and from the Lyons to town would be the first place to start.
  - Not cutting through a parking lot where traffic can back into them.
  - Paint striping or texture striping at edges for visual aides on uneven paths. (ex. The path through to the clinic from the Lyons or from the Glen into town)
- **Vegetation Management and Obstruction Removal:** Implement a regular maintenance schedule for vegetation trimming and enforce regulations regarding sidewalk obstructions.
  - Ex. Next to hydro station for example- I've seen people walk out blindly into the circle around trees and the hydro pole- They have no option to stay on the sidewalk. This is also a place where an elderly or disabled person can tip off the curb into oncoming traffic.
- **Expansion of Connected Pathways:** Develop and expand a network of connected sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use paths to promote active transportation.
  - Improved connectivity of pathways within the community.
- **Community Input:** Organize community meetings and surveys to gather feedback from residents regarding their experiences and suggestions for improvement.
- **Prioritize funding:** Allocate sufficient funding to make the improvements necessary.

Investing in improved community mobility and sidewalk infrastructure will result in numerous benefits, including:

- Increased pedestrian safety
- Enhanced accessibility for all residents
- Promotion of active lifestyles
- Improved community connectivity
- Increased property values
- Reduced traffic congestion.

I urge you to consider these recommendations and take action to improve the mobility and sidewalk infrastructure in our community. I am willing to collaborate and provide further assistance in any way possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ana Trinkaus

Pemberton BC  
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