

TECHNICAL MEMO

To

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Prepared by

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Re

Curb Extensions on 11th Ave E, Prince Rupert

Date

September 14, 2021

As requested, we have prepared this technical memorandum to describe the proposed design of the curb extensions on 11th Avenue East in Prince Rupert, BC, and explain the reasons for this recommendation.

1. Background

Lax Kw'alaams WAAP Housing Society (Lax Kw'alaams) and BC Housing are planning to construct a new apartment building on 11th Avenue East, opposite the Edward Street intersection, in Prince Rupert, BC (Figure 1). The building would have six stories, with a total of 70 dwelling units. This development is intended to address an existing housing shortage in the local First Nations community, whom will be given first priority for these apartments.

To evaluate the potential traffic and safety impacts caused by the new development, the City of Prince Rupert and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) requested a detailed Traffic Impact Study. As part of this study, a “virtual” open house was hosted online on Thursday, April 8, 2021 to invite the local residents to provide their questions and concerns on the proposed development. The following issues were raised at the open house:

- There is a lot of traffic on 11th Avenue East, including speeding vehicles and heavy trucks. Extra traffic from the apartments is expected to make the situation worse.
- Vehicles turning from Edward Street onto 11th Avenue experience congestion and delays.
- Sight lines looking north from Edward Street are limited, which causes safety issues.
- 11th Avenue East is a transit route, and the development will generate more pedestrian traffic.
- The site will increase the demand for more on-street parking.

2. Proposed Curb Extensions

In addition to the proposed new sidewalk along the property frontage on the east side of 11th Avenue East, curb extensions would significantly improve the safety at the Edward Street intersection (as described above). The curb extensions would simply be wider sidewalk bulbs on all four corners of the intersection, as shown in Figure 2.

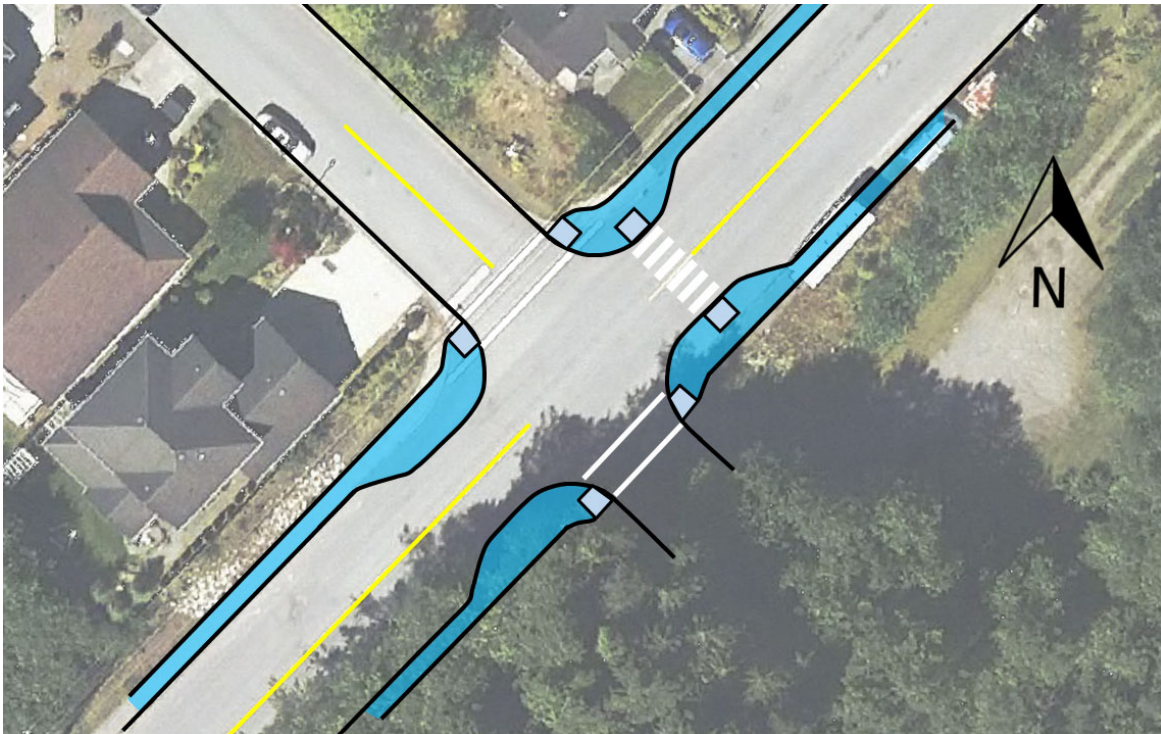


Figure 2: Conceptual Design for Curb Extensions on 11th Avenue East

The curb extensions would leave sufficient road width for two-way vehicle and bicycle traffic on 11th Avenue East, as well as all turning movements at the Edward Street intersection. However, the curb extensions would provide the following benefits:

1. The narrowed road width would have a “calming” effect on traffic, thereby reducing speeds on 11th Avenue East.
2. Sight lines would be improved looking north from Edward Street.
3. Pedestrian safety would be improved by increasing visibility and decreasing crossing distance.
4. The bulbs would keep on-street parking further back from the intersection.
5. The curb extensions provide space for ramps at the crosswalk to improve accessibility.

For these reasons, the curb extensions are recommended as part of the proposed development.

3. Closure


This Technical Memo for the 11th Avenue Curb Extensions has been prepared by McElhanney Ltd. (McElhanney) for the benefit of the Lax Kw'alaams First Nation and the City of Prince Rupert. The information and data contained herein represent McElhanney's best professional judgment in light of the knowledge and information available to McElhanney at the time of preparation.

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Yours truly,

McElhanney Ltd.

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