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OF SKAGWAY

From Craig Weidner
975 Spring Street
Skagway, Ak.
weidnercm556@gmail.com

I originally wrote and sent this letter to the Skagway City Assembly on 9-5-2019 and resubmitted it on 4-28-2022 to the Public Safety committee. This is in regards to bus traffic on Spring St. between 7th and 10th Streets and the bus traffic on Spring Street being diverted to 11th and Broadway and 12th and Broadway at a cost of \$640,000 to pave and install sidewalks on 11th and 12th between Broadway and the WP&YR Fraser siding. Since this project was completed in 2019 these streets have never been used for the buses to access the Fraser siding. This project was originally intended to get the heavy bus traffic off of Spring Street- the narrowest street in town. This project was passed and approved by the city assembly and our dear mayor Monica Carlson at the time.

From: Craig Weidner

In 2018 I came to the assembly meeting with a proposal for bus traffic going to the Fraser Railroad siding to be deferred to 11th Street- which is a city street to the benefit of the Railroad and their 40 & 45 ft. buses to use instead of Spring Street. Spring St. is by the way from 9th to 10th St. the narrowest street in Skagway by 10ft! Spring St. is being treated by these buses as a one way street. The stop sign before 10th and Spring St. is violated every day.

If nothing is done this year 2022 & the Public Safety Committee & the current Assembly wait until 2023 to implement this that will be a total of 5 YRS. with No Action.

That is Kicking The Can Down the Road On Steroids! Does it take someone getting run over by a bus to get some action on this Issue?? This represents a HUGE LIABILITY to the city that is not being addressed!

Spring Street is very dangerous for all concerned!! 11th and Broadway should be used for all of this traffic to the Fraser Railroad siding. When I originally brought this up in 2018 Monica Carlson was our mayor. At that time there was a consensus from the Assembly and Monica to divert the bus traffic off of Spring Street and onto 11th and Broadway for the Fraser Siding. I give the Assembly some credit for spending the city's hard earned money to pave 11th and 12th Streets for the cost of \$640,000. This requires some follow through from the previous proposal that they agreed to. This is a hard thing for me to say-but it needs to be said. Monica and her mother were killed by a bus driver that wasn't paying attention. I only hope this doesn't happen here. Is that what it takes to get some action here?? God help us. None of us want that on our conscious. If there are no rules put in place and enforced it is just a matter of time. If the big buses are on 11th and Broadway to get to their parking they will not run a stop sign on a two way street such as 11th and Broadway. Coming off of State St. they can drive straight to their parking spots on 11th and exit on 12th.

Currently the big buses coming from the north end of town drive right past 11th and 12th down to 7th to City Hall and then up Spring S t. and past 10th to their parking spots on the Fraser Siding. That is 10 blocks out of the way just to get to where they are going. When they would only have to turn on 11th then 1 block and exit on 12th one block. Where is the reasoning on that??

One thing that also seems to be forgotten on all of this is that the streets of Skagway belong to the citizens of Skagway and not the bus companies to do with whatever they want to!!It's the cities obligation to tell the bus companies how and where they are going to operate on our streets. THis has yet to happen!

On a final note there are children who play on and by Spring St. I have seen the daycare go by with at least a dozen small children walking down the street headed to the city hall and Molly Walsh Park to play. I can only assume they are trying to usher the little children safely to the park to play. And now with the old locomotive and cars set up next to the city museum that area is really a kid magnet. We need to make this street safer for the children of Skagway.

The Mountain Shop walks their customers to the Fraser siding up Spring St. with as many as 10-40 people sometimes right in the middle of all the bus traffic also. This is also dangerous for tourists and guides.

This issue requires action by the Public Safety Committee and also the Assembly and enforcement there of. Putting a sidewalk on Spring St. won't fix this problem- but removing the buses to 11th and 12th will.

By the way there are 100 plus 40-45 buses in our small community. NO Rules Equals Disaster!!

I sent this letter to the Assembly on 9-5-2019 and again on 4-28-2022 without any response or action taken on this issue. This letter is a revised version of my original letter.

Yours sincerely,
Craig Weidner
Concerned citizen of Skagway

