



Tsleil-Waututh Nation
səlilwətał



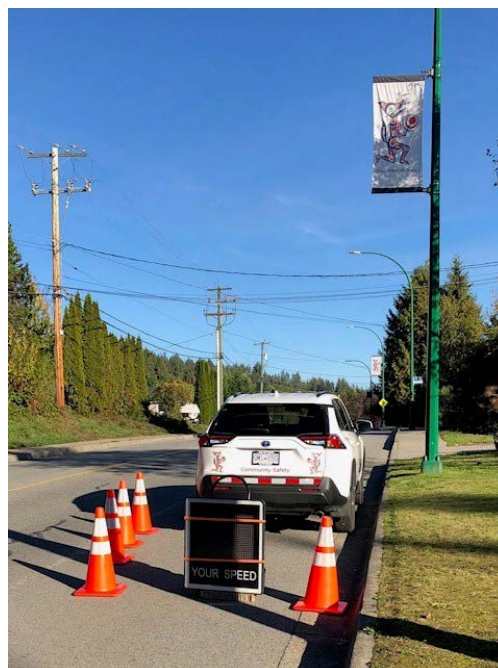
səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Speed Watch Program Report

April 2024

Report Author:

**Andrew Van Eden, Community Safety Manager,
səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)**



Introduction by Robert Bartlett, Chief Administration Officer, səliiwətał

Our səliiwətał Speed Watch program has released critical findings from their activations over the past six months, which were led by the TWN Community Safety team and member volunteers. They found that while 85% of vehicles passing through the community along Dollarton Highway are essentially complying with the speed limit, 13% of vehicles are doing 11 km/h to 20 km/h over the speed limit, and 2% of vehicles are doing more than 20 km/h over the speed limit. This is unacceptable. The safety of our children and our families is the most important thing to me, which is why Speed Watch is one of our top priorities.

Thanks to a British Columbia Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant, our Speed Watch program was able to purchase the necessary equipment, train volunteers, and conduct these activations. The program will continue to raise more awareness about the importance of observing the speed limit and to share valuable data with local authorities.

Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Program

In the spring of 2023, səliiwətał received a British Columbia Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant. The program aims to make travelling around communities safe and equitable. Administered by the B.C. Injury Research and Prevention Unit with the Province of B.C. and local health authorities, including First Nations Health Authority, the Vision Zero approach to road safety is internationally recognized and focused on eliminating serious injuries and deaths on the roads.

Traditional Road Safety Approach	Vision Zero Approach
Prevent road accidents.	Eliminate serious injuries and road fatalities.
Injuries and deaths caused by road-related crashes are unavoidable by-products of the transportation system.	Serious injuries and deaths caused by road-related crashes can be prevented when evidence-based safety measures are in place.
Human error is the root cause of road problems.	Poor road design and infrastructure causes problems.
Each road user is responsible for their own safety.	Road safety is a shared responsibility of those who design, build, and use the roads.
Making road safety improvements is expensive.	Making road safety improvements is cost-effective.

Adapted from Table 2. Comparison of traditional, systematic, and vision zero approaches on road safety based on a scoping review. <https://www.visionzerobc.ca/about>

Background

Many Speed Watch programs are run by volunteers out of the RCMP or municipal police stations and are sponsored by ICBC as an educational program aimed at reducing incidents of speeding. We have previously benefited from the North Vancouver RCMP's volunteer Speed Watch program, however that program covers all of North Vancouver and had limited availability to attend to the səlilwətał community.

Tsleil-Waututh Nation Speed Watch Program

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation Community Safety team used the grant funds to start a Speed Watch program specific for our community. With our own program, we can set the number of days, number of activations, and the number of hours we wish to be visible in the community.



With the grant, we set out to purchase all the equipment needed to run a program – a mobile speed reader board, traffic cones, high-visibility vests, clipboards, and a sandwich board that lets drivers know they were just observed by our volunteers. Additionally, a call was made to the community to find volunteers. Ten community members registered, with seven of them able to attend a short training session organized by the ICBC Road Safety Unit.

For the past six months, these seven volunteers and TWN Community Safety Manager Andrew Van Eden have been active along Dollarton Highway counting vehicle speeds and being a visible presence to slow vehicles down.

We generally count from one hour to 90 minutes, depending upon the weather and time of year. Activations occur on weekdays during work hours, late afternoons (daylight permitting), and Saturday mornings.

TWN Speed Watch Statistics

Here is what Tsleil-Waututh volunteers have contributed to date:



Benefits of Speed Watch Activations

Not only does a Speed Watch activation allow us to record the speed of every vehicle in the lane that is approaching our speed reader board, it also provides a visual presence that often leads to vehicles slowing down when they see us, therefore moving through the reserve at a safer speed. We believe that over time, we can reduce the speed of traffic overall.



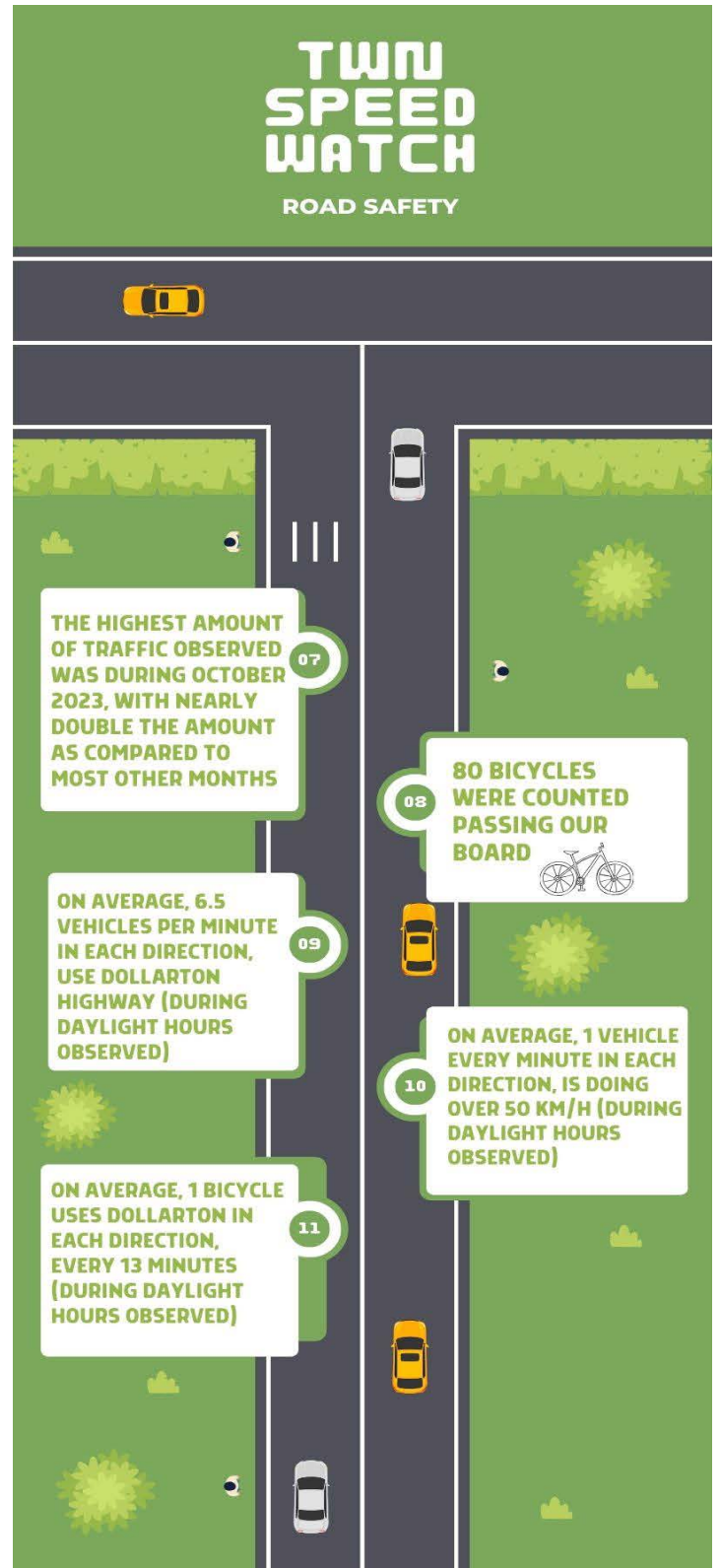
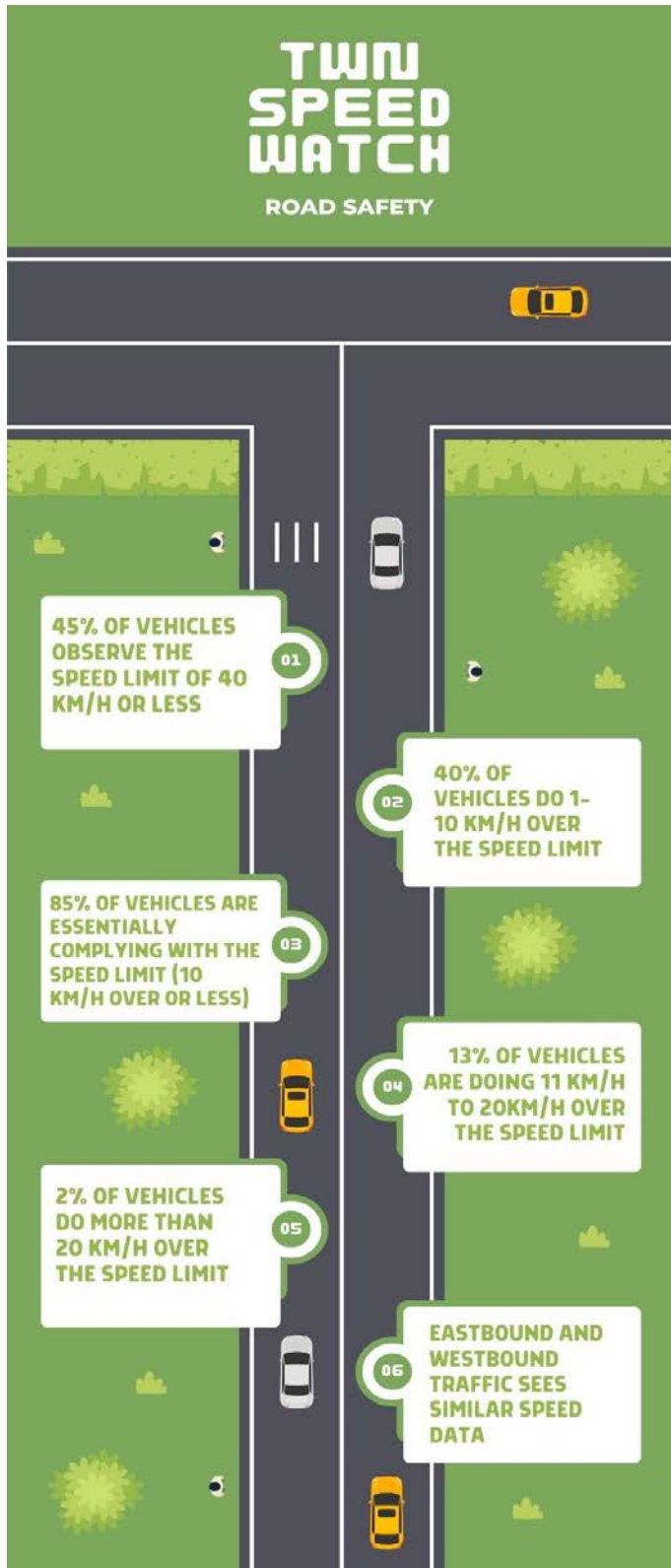
Currently, the North Vancouver RCMP and the Integrated First Nations Unit (IFNU) provide radar coverage, often sending warnings or issuing tickets to motorists. At times, these officers pair with our Speed Watch program by setting up further down the road or dealing with traffic going the opposite direction. At one of our activations on a Saturday morning in October 2023, police issued 12 speeding tickets in one hour. In this case, they conducted radar on eastbound traffic while the Speed Watch team focused on westbound traffic down the street. It was a very successful day of building awareness.

Each month, we compile our traffic data and share it with the RCMP's Speed Watch Program, IFNU, RCMP Traffic Section, and the ICBC Road Safety Unit of the North Shore. They use that data, along with data submitted by other Speed Watch programs, to determine areas where speeding is the worst, times of day that are faster, and thus where to place enforcement resources.

One additional benefit to our grant is a new speed reader board that will be permanently installed for westbound traffic on Dollarton Highway. We have had one of these boards installed eastbound for several years, but we have lacked a similar warning system for westbound traffic. In partnership with the District of North Vancouver (DNV), that sign board will be mounted this summer 2024 as part of the sidewalk expansion project.

Results from TWN Speed Watch Activations

Below are observations the Speed Watch volunteers have made over the past six months, including interesting, yet not unexpected, results. All activations occurred on Dollarton Highway.



What happens next?

While the grant is now complete, the program will carry on well into the future. With all of the equipment in place, volunteers will continue to be active on Dollarton, raising awareness of the speed limit and counting the speed of vehicles. The spring and summer seasons will no doubt be the busiest and possibly the fastest.

Subsequent training will be offered in May or June 2024 for new volunteers who wish to participate in our səlilwətał program. Not only will your involvement help your community, but you will also receive a \$25 gift card for your time and effort (while supplies last).

The TWN Community Safety team is also engaged with the TWN Public Works Department, DNV, NV RCMP, and IFNU to find long-term solutions to make Dollarton Highway safer. We are exploring funding opportunities to build a plan that will seek to make safety improvements to the infrastructure and overall road design, support better signage of speed, pedestrian crossings, animal crossings, as well as finding more opportunities to calm the road through the addition of Tseil-Waututh art and design elements.

Acknowledgements



On behalf of the TWN Community Safety team, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and giving spirit of our volunteers: Rosie Dapp, Mabel Humchitt, Genevieve Humchitt, Natalie Sandover, Jim Sandover, Bernadette Guss, and Jeff Sisson.

We are grateful for the Vision Zero funding and the support of our funder in ensuring the success of our program. Inspiration for this program and grant came from the Musqueam Indian Band's Speed Watch program.

Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) has taken inspiration from TWN and aim to establish a program of their own this year. The Speed Watch program is an empowering way for community to show road users that safety matters!

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Tsleil-Waututh Nation

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