

## Pamela Martin

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**From:** evey obrien <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** April 17, 2025 2:59 PM  
**To:** Municipal Hall  
**Subject:** Stoplight/Crosswalk at Mt. Newton and East Saanich road intersection

**Categories:** Council Correspondence

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Dear Central Saanich Councillors,

My name is Evey O'Brien, and I'm a student at Stelly's Secondary School. I've lived in Saanichton my whole life, right close to an intersection that I was scared of for about 15 years. The intersection of East Saanich at Mt. Newton is the busiest and most dangerous intersection in all of Saanichton, and there really needs to be a crosswalk or a stoplight there.

Firstly, as I mentioned, it's the busiest crossing around, and by the time rush hour rolls around, it gets so confusing and suffocated. For a newer driver like myself, I find it to be a really stressful area. The mix of several lanes of traffic, a constant stream of pedestrians and lots of cars no matter the time of day, the intersection is clearly a hazard.

Secondly, East Saanich at Mt. Newton houses the three major bus stops around, the Saanichton Exchange. At any given moment there will be people of all sorts of physical abilities standing around a busy intersection with no easy way of crossing. Furthermore, most people who come to the exchange aim to make a transfer to another bus, which means groups of people in a hurry trying to cross the road. There is constantly people unsafely jaywalking because they don't have the time or the understanding of how to cross at the intersection, and this creates a massive risks for accidents, seeing as people often come out from behind buses, completely unbeknownst to drivers.

Most importantly, this intersection is also near where buses from multiple different schools drop and pick up children. It's almost unfathomable that there is no safe way for young kids to get home, but for to hope that drivers actually stop when the school buses put up their stop sign. I was in elementary school, taking home the school bus home at eight years old when I watched one of my classmates almost get hit right in front of me. This isn't the first instance I've heard of really close accidents, *involving kids*, going on around that intersection.

I realize that it may be expensive, and logistics may be complicated, but I watch 30 highschool students run across the road at Mr. Newton and East Saanich every afternoon. Every morning I watch the same amount of elementary school kids catch the school bus from the same spot. It's completely unsafe and shocking that after this many close calls, there's been no effort made to mitigate the hazards of that intersection. I would love to see a crosswalk or a stoplight built, and I would urge you to ask others in the community to see that my sentiments are shared. Thank you for your time.

Evey O'Brien

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