

## TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – COMPLETE STREETS THE CITY OF NANAIMO AND ISL ENGINEERING & LAND SERVICES



The City of Nanaimo and ISL Engineering & Land Services have received a 2021 Transportation Achievement Award for their project “**Raised Local Intersections: The City of Nanaimo’s New Engineering Standard**” in the Complete Streets Category. The Transportation Achievement Awards recognize excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs, by entities concerned with transportation, such as governmental agencies, legislative bodies, consulting firms, industry, and other organizations.

**Overview of Project:** The City of Nanaimo and ISL Engineering and Land Services have been working together in recent years on two projects that will guide street design in the city for years to come, demonstrate the benefits immediately through implementation, and provide examples of built infrastructure that other North American cities can draw upon to improve the sustainability of their cities. They first developed the *Complete Street Design Guideline (CSDG)* and updated Nanaimo’s Transportation Engineering Standards (MOESS, Section 8). **Roy Symons P.Eng./Manager**, Transportation Planning, ISL Engineering and Land Services, and **Annalisa Fipke P.Eng.**, Project Engineer, City of Nanaimo, were leads on the projects.

One of the most significant components of the guideline and new engineering standards, which has sparked most interest to date, is the inclusion of Dutch-style raised intersections. These are featured at local streets where there should be no need for drivers to enter or exit a neighbourhood at speed. Rather than traditional curb returns, they feature driveway-style letdowns and continuous raised sidewalks and bike paths. The approach while facing some resistance at first, quickly gained support of the city team and through discussions with emergency services, all fears were allayed. This component specifically has been extremely well received in the planning and design community through social media. In parallel, an ongoing Metral Drive Complete Street Project will provide a finished example of the type of street the guideline is striving to create, providing a showcase project for the guideline and sustainable transportation direction in the city, particularly with respect to the Dutch-style raised intersection that is featured frequently along the corridor. For the rest of Canada, and even North America, it will provide design guidance and a built example, and is already drawing eyes to Canada and the City of Nanaimo. While Nanaimo is not the Netherlands, it can still benefit from their design practices, apply them in Canadian context, and realize their benefits.