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Onderwerp: heavy impact of VCP on Archipel / Burgemeester Patijnlaan

Dear Archipel Buurt News

It has been few days ago that Archipel started to thaw out of snow that the last embrace of winter left behind two weeks ago.

However, some side roads and more likely pedestrian pavements still resemble an ice skating ring. This in particular applies to the pavement along the channel at Burgemeester Patijnlaan.

Suddenly, out of all the peace of these Christmas days, there was an desperate cry heard at midday of the 27th December, right opposite the main police station. An old lady with an electrical wheel-chair slipped on icy pavement and landed in the channel. The pavement conditions were so difficult that even rescuers could hardly keep balance while accompanying the victim of city-hall negligence to nearby Couperus Duin building.

It is quite remarkable to see the difference in treatment of certain roads and pavements in our quarter Archipel.

While the road surface at Burgemeester Patijnlaan was treated with salt several times during and after the heavy snow fall on Sunday the 20th, the frozen pavement along the channel did not see a single grain of salt at all. No wonder that this accident happened.

In contrast to perfectly clean and dry axle Laan Copes van Cattenburch - Burgemeester Patijnlaan, most side streets of Archipel looked more like an icy sleigh-run instead of paved streets. Why is there such a difference even one week after the heavy snow fall? Aren't citizens of Archipel dully paying their local taxes to receive such a punishment or is it just a part of the city hall plan to keep the traffic at city ring going, while neglecting the rest?

I hope that the unfortunate lady, whose visit to a friend living in Archipel turned into an icy cold ordeal will seek compensation from the city hall, as a reminder that Burgemeester Patijnlaan is used by pedestrians too.

Another interesting contrast stands up while observing the number of pedestrian crossings along there major arteries starting from Waldeck Pyrmontkade until they merge into busy Raamweg. The link Elandstraat - Hogewaal - Mauritskade have 10 pedestrian crossings (at Waldeck-Pyrmontkade, Vondelstraat, 2e de Riemerstraat, Prinsessewall, Noordeinde, Parkstraat, Louis Couperusplein, Denneweg and at Koninginnegracht).

Similarly, Laan van Meerdervoort - Javastraat can be safely crossed at 9

pedestrian crossings (Waldeck Pymontkade, Tasmanstraat, Zoutmanstraat, Anna Paulownastraat, Alexanderstraat, Nassaulaan, Nassauplein, Frederikstraat, Koninginnegracht).

There are in contrast only 6 zebras along main artery Groote Hertoginnelaan - Carnegielaan - Burgemeester Patijnlaan - Laan Copes van Cattenburch where three out of six are at Groote Hertoginnelaan (Waldeck Pymontkade, Banstraat and at the end of Carnegielaan) and the rest of pedestrian crossings at each side of the crossroad Carnegielaan and Scheveningseweg, zebras at crossroad Laan Copes van Cattenburch with Nasauplein and the last at Koninginnegracht.

The length of Groote Hertoginlaan - Carnegielaan - Burgemeester Patijnlaan - Laan Copes van Cattenburch link is the longest due to its curvature through the neighborhood. However, the number of pedestrian crossings is scandalously small, particularly at Burgemeester Patijnlaan. There is not a single pedestrian crossing along 1 kilometer long Burgemeester Patijnlaan, although several side streets cross this main artery and there are citizens living on both side of this street.

It seems to be a mystery, why entire Archipel is de facto cut off from the Centrum. Do not local citizens pay enough taxes to the city hall? Is there an intention to keep the ever increasing traffic flowing, while suppressing local pedestrians?

I believe that one single outcry won't be enough to change the mindset of city hall urban planners, but a petition could rise adequate level of attention. The city hall shall explain why there are so few crossings in our quarter of Archipel and why other busy streets gathering traffic to Raamweg have significantly more zebras installed not mentioning the number of traffic lights providing more safety to pedestrians.

Sincerely yours      one of many affected Archipel inhabitants