

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2017

The Lakes Banquet Room, 4670 Elk Lake Road, Victoria

Members: Leo Belanger, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Kim Bruce, Prevention Services, Island Health
A/S/Sgt. Ron Cronk, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Judy Dryden, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Chris Foord, Community Member (Vice-Chair)
Jeff Groot, RoadSafetyBC
Marnice Jones, School Districts
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Alan Perry, Media
Colin Plant, CRD Director (Chair)
Tina Rogers, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Dr. Holly Tuokko, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, University of Victoria
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety Division

Associates: John Hicks, Active Transportation, CRD

Regrets: Dr. Murray Fyfe, Medical Health Officer, Island Health

Guests: Corey Berger, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Barb McLintock

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Mifold booster seats
- Update on video contest

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Leo Belanger, that the agenda be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2017

MOVED by Judy Dryden, **SECONDED** by Jeff Groot, that the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2017 be approved with the following changes. **CARRIED**

- Page 2, 3rd paragraph – Change “and can only be used for a few months” to “at times are only used for a few months.”
- Page 3, 2nd paragraph, under Budget Update – Delete “and another \$75,000 available for new programs.”

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Plant mentioned that the one year anniversary of Cst. Sarah Beckett's passing has been acknowledged in the media and said that he is proud that the Commission is moving forward with a memorial scholarship in her honour.

Chair Plant publicly acknowledged the work that Alan Perry, Colleen Woodger, Jeff Groot, Marnice Jones and Tina Rogers have done on the creation of the website and the video contest which is now open and running.

4. Presentation by Corey Berger, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition

Corey is the Policy and Infrastructure Chair for the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition. Professionally, he works for RA Malatest and Associates, a data company, and spends a lot of time working on transportation issues.

What is traffic safety for bikes and people who ride bikes? Recent research, especially coming from the US, shows that the traffic safety picture for bikes is not improving. Traffic safety research as it relates to biking is increasing at an incredible rate and Corey mentioned the following four research papers: BC Coroners Service report looking at child and youth deaths on the road; BC Community Road Safety Toolkit; Innovation in Infrastructure and Engineering; and the Provincial Health Officer's release on overall road safety. One of the key concepts in these reports is the idea of a safe road. The idea of a safe road is not just talking about the users, it's also talking about the speed, the design and the enforcement.

One of the easy things the province was able to do as a consequence of some of this research is they have a funding lever to the municipalities. Grants through BikeBC have funded \$9 million of bike infrastructure which turns into at least \$18 million throughout the province because it's a 50/50 match grant. There were no projects funded within the CRD in this round but previously there has been funding provided which has closed several critical safety gaps in the bikeway infrastructure. The funding criteria has changed and now must follow a set of standards based on research about what is a safe bikeway.

A couple of years ago the City of Vancouver commissioned a pair of safety studies, one looking at walking and one looking at biking. The study done by Urban Systems was a comprehensive look at safety within the city and it really showed where the incidents were happening, why they were happening and what could be done to prevent them. One of the pieces that fed into that was some research done by UBC and SFU called "Cycling in Cities – Bicyclists' Injuries and the Cycling Environment" (BICE) which looked at hospitalization of people in Toronto and Vancouver and reasons for the crashes that caused them to be hospitalized. The study came up with information about what is safe and was consistent with other research elsewhere.

There is a lot of research happening in the US. A research study out of Portland State University called "Lessons from the Green Lanes" looked at the safety of protected bike lanes in the US and the GVCC uses this research a lot when they talk about advocacy. Corey also discussed evidence from overseas, i.e., London, Seville and Denmark.

Based on research, safe bikeways are considered to be:

- Trails (separated and lit)
- Neighbourhood bikeways
- Protected bike lanes (which vary in type of construction and appearance). Also, the research is consistent in showing that two-way protected bike lanes are safe.

Corey said that the GVCC would like to partner with the TSC on a bike light and maintenance safety campaign. He also suggested that the TSC membership be expanded to include user groups, i.e., the GVCC, Walk On Victoria, etc., as well as engineers so that issues around safe design are covered.

Following is a summary of some of the issues discussed in a question and answer period after the presentation:

- Regarding the idea of having engineers on the TSC, it was mentioned that the Commission is education based and road structure is not part of the mandate. Corey commented that if transportation safety as a holistic measure is being discussed, then the TSC needs to represent all levels of transportation and perhaps a change to the mandate needs to be explored.
- The idea of having covered walkways with solar power that would be wide enough for eBikes was raised. The challenge with eBikes is that they are faster and heavier and putting them on a busy trail would create risks for the more vulnerable users, i.e., walkers.

- The need for guard rails on transport trucks was mentioned. In an accident, cyclists can slide under trucks without them. It was suggested this could be an advocacy point for the TSC.
- The Vancouver safety study basically found that of the vehicle/cycling accidents where they could figure out the cause, the driver was responsible for approximately 85% of them.

Chair Plant thanked Corey for his presentation and noted these points:

- The idea of lighting through solar power along the regional trails would be within the purview of the TSC and is something we shouldn't just let go of. Where could we put that recommendation?
- The Commission is always open to partnering with groups and the GVCC is encouraged to apply using the project application form on the TSC website. Co-sponsoring a campaign around lights on bikes for daytime use would be something we would be open to.
- The topic of the structure of the TSC will be introduced under the agenda item on Commission Membership.

5. Media Clips

Alan Perry showed a video clip of the new bike lane at Dean Avenue and Newton Street in Saanich which Judy Dryden had brought forward as a concern. The curb extends past part of the lane and could be a hazard. Chair Plant will check with Saanich to see if there is still further work to be done.

Alan Perry provided an overview of the new TSC website and gave an update on the video contest. There are \$6,000 in prizes to be awarded, with the deadline for entries being May 19. A creative brief will be held at CTV on April 28.

As it ties into the subject matter of the TSC video contest, Alan talked about the new proposed Cannabis Act which is scheduled to be in place by June of 2018. Jeff Groot provided information on the federal news release and the backgrounder on proposed changes to impaired driving laws. Regarding marijuana, higher amounts of THC in the bloodstream will result in escalating penalties. Penalties escalate further when there is both alcohol and marijuana present. Changes to the Criminal Code have been introduced which allow for mandatory breath testing, i.e., if you are pulled over for another reason, such as speeding, police have the right to do a breath test.

A slide was presented showing numbers of fatalities where active or inactive THC was present. Marijuana stays in the bloodstream for a long time--some studies have shown for several days--but the THC stops having an active effect on your perceptions, etc., much before it is eliminated from the bloodstream. There is no definitive proof that says a certain level of THC equals an impairment.

Chair Plant gave a further update on the video contest. Names of the suggested winners will be brought to the June TSC meeting and next month there will be a subcommittee struck for adjudicating. It is planned to have a viewing/unveiling and media event at Claremont in the latter part of June. There will be an additional prize of a MacBook Pro or a Surface Pro awarded to the school whose students submit the most entries (one entry per student). Posters advertising the contest have been sent to schools, but Colleen Woodger will send out a reminder.

6. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks advised that there is still approximately \$65,000 that we need to expend. It is important that we get the message out that applications are being accepted for funding opportunities. A discussion on advertising is also needed. Chair Plant advised that the website came in on budget at \$5,000.

➤ Allocation of Surplus Funds

The idea of lighting on bicycles would be an interesting initiative if it was to come forward to the TSC and the GVCC is encouraged to apply to partner on a project.

Tina Rogers advised that she will be applying for funding for education and enforcement for the slow down, move over campaign.

Colleen Woodger suggested that we should activate messages around distracted driving and slow down, move over to get some advertising up and running.

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Tina Rogers, that the TSC allocate \$25,000 towards a CTV ad campaign to address both distracted driving and slow down, move over.

First Amendment:

MOVED by Kim Bruce, **SECONDED** by Marnice Jones, that the motion be amended to say that the \$25,000 should include social media, subject to a further report from Alan Perry on a breakdown of potential options. **CARRIED**

Second Amendment:

MOVED by Jeff Groot, **SECONDED** by Kim Bruce, that the motion be further amended to remove the reference to the \$25,000 amount. **CARRIED**

OPPOSED: Chris Foord, Bill Laughlin, Colleen Woodger

Final Motion:

That Alan Perry research costs for an advertising and social media campaign on distracted driving and slow down, move over and bring back a report for further consideration at the May 11 TSC meeting. **CARRIED**

➤ **Malahat Speed Enforcement**

The issue of a camera monitoring speed on the Malahat as a potential test project has been discussed at previous meetings. Chair Plant suggested we should discuss recommending to the CRD Board that they ask the province for some sort of photo radar on the Malahat.

S/Sgt. Ron Cronk commented that there is going to be some additional funding allocated for the construction zone from Aspen Road to south Shawnigan Lake Road.

Action: This topic will be carried forward to the May meeting for more discussion

➤ **Red Light Cameras in CRD**

Chair Plant expressed concern about the high number of drivers that are running red lights and suggested the issue of the number of cameras is something we could recommend that the municipalities in the CRD comment on. Jeff Groot advised that if municipalities were interested in expanding this, the appropriate way to do that would be to send a letter to the province to indicate interest in expansion in their communities.

Action: Colleen Woodger will bring some information on this to the May meeting

➤ **Mifold Booster Seats**

Judy Dryden passed a catalogue around showing these booster seats. BCAA has distributed a letter cautioning about the use of this booster seat. There is no elevated seat cushion and this could result in the child slouching in the seat. It also seems that the seat belt guides could be difficult to use properly. This issue has been forwarded to Transport Canada.

7. **Business Arising from the Previous Minutes**

➤ **Advertising**

Already dealt with under allocation of surplus funds

- **Commission Membership**
Action: Deferred to the May meeting as priority business
- **Letter to CRD Board recommending mandatory use of bike helmets on trails**
Action: Deferred to the May meeting
- **Updates from planning groups**
Action: Remove from the agenda
- **Exploring other funding opportunities with UVic Centre for Youth and Society**
Action: Deferred to the May meeting
- **Letter regarding funding for transportation of special needs children**

Dr. Stanwick has been looking into this and the information he received through the Ministry of Children and Family Development, At Home Program, is that there are issues around insurance coverage and liability.

Action: Colleen Woodger will follow up to see if an ICBC representative has contacted Dr. Stanwick

7. Member Updates

- **RoadSafetyBC**
No updates
- **ICBC**
No updates
- **Youth and Children**
No updates
- **Seniors**
No updates
- **Active Transportation**
No updates
- **IRSU**
No updates
- **CVSE**
No updates
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council**
No updates

8. Other Business

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 11, 2017 at noon** in **The Lakes banquet room**.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.