

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, July 13, 2017

The Lakes Banquet Room, 4670 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria

Members: A/S/Sgt. Ron Cronk, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Judy Dryden, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Medical Health Officer, Island Health
Chris Foord, Community Member (Acting Chair)
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Todd Litman, Walk On Victoria
Barb McLintock, BC Coroner's Service (Acting Vice-Chair)
Dr. Holly Tuokko, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, University of Victoria
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety Division

Associates: S/Sgt. Marc Chateau, Saanich Police
Sgt. Andy Duke, Central Saanich Police
John Hicks, Active Transportation, CRD
Cpl. Heinz Krauss, West Shore RCMP
Dr. Richard Stanwick, Island Health

Regrets: Leo Belanger, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Jeff Groot, RoadSafetyBC
Marnice Jones, School Districts
Alan Perry, Media
Colin Plant, CRD Director (Chair)
Tina Rogers, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Guests: Brad Dellebuur, City of Victoria
Janelle Hatch, Island Health
Sarah Webb, City of Victoria

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Funding requests received from the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and the UVic Centre for Youth and Society were added to the agenda.

MOVED by Barb McLintock, **SECONDED** by Judy Dryden, that the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. **Approval of Minutes – June 8, 2017**

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Holly Tuokko, that the minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2017 be approved.

3. **Chair's Remarks**

Acting Chair Chris Foord reported that at the CRD Board meeting of July 12, approval was given to the TSC recommendation to approach the Cowichan Valley Regional District to make a joint submission to the province requesting interval speed cameras be used on the Malahat. There has been a lot of media attention paid to this and John Hicks commented that input received from the public has been strongly in support of the cameras going ahead. Dr. Richard Stanwick mentioned that there are currently two medical health officers covering the Cowichan area and suggested this could be an opportunity to put a local face to the issue by having them advocate for the cameras.

Also at the CRD Board meeting, the TSC motion recommending that the Commission voting membership be expanded to include representatives from the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and Walk On Victoria was approved.

The Victoria Shamrocks are raising funds to go towards the Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship. A/Chair Foord attended the Shamrocks game last Friday to help promote this and asked if anyone would be available to attend the game on July 14. He also asked West Shore RCMP if there is a photo of Cst. Beckett that could be used at the game to help encourage donations. Cpl. Krauss will look into getting one.

4. **Presentation by Sarah Webb and Brad Dellebuur, City of Victoria Transportation Department, on bike lanes and reduced speed limits**

Sarah Webb is the Manager of Active Transportation for the City of Victoria, and spoke on the City's bicycle network and the all ages and abilities infrastructure that the City is building. The City is focusing on how to protect vulnerable road users, how to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists and how to continue to see an evolution in infrastructure on the roads. The City has a vision to have a balanced, active and multi-modal transportation network. As the City is growing rapidly and there is only so much room on the road, the approach is to look at a multi-faceted way to support motorists, pedestrians, transit riders, and cyclists.

The City already has a good cycling network with off street pathways, buffered bike lanes, standard bike lanes and shared routes but would like to do more and move to be a great cycling city. The goal is to attract riders of all ages and abilities and offer a safe and comfortable experience across the community. All ages and abilities cycling supports vision zero which goes hand in hand with protected bicycle infrastructure and enhanced pedestrian improvements. There are generally four types of cyclists, and the focus will be on the largest portion (60%) who are interested in cycling but concerned about safety.

In a survey that was conducted last fall, 58% of those surveyed agreed they would like to cycle more than they do now. The top three factors influencing the decision to cycle/not cycle were the presence of separate, protected bike lanes, adverse weather and fear of traffic or motor vehicle collisions. If more cycling infrastructure was built, a large percentage of people said they would be likely to cycle more often. Locally, there is an appetite for improved infrastructure.

All ages and abilities infrastructure refers to three general types of infrastructure: off-road facilities, protected bike facilities, and shared roads. Safety is the most critical part. Education and awareness for all road users, as well as enforcement, are critical to reach the safety target. The goal is to construct 24 kilometers of infrastructure within the municipality by 2022. The first phase, the Pandora two-way bike lanes, have opened and next will be Fort Street, then Cook Street going down between Pandora and Pakington, the Humboldt corridor and looping back through Wharf Street. The focus is on the downtown core which has the least amount of cycling infrastructure to start off with and the highest levels of safety concerns. There is also rapid population growth; in the next two years, there will be more than 3500 people living downtown.

The first two-way protected facility in the City was opened on Pandora Avenue on May 1. Two months were spent focusing on education and awareness. Thanks to the TSC for the contribution towards the educational program. It has been a big job to alert existing drivers and educate new drivers around this change in infrastructure. The biggest change on Pandora was for drivers not being allowed to turn right on a red light. Enforcement just started last week and S/Sgt. Ron Cronk noted there were 134 infractions in four hours which included both cyclists and motorists. The sense of entitlement for both motorists and cyclists is quite significant.

Education and awareness are ongoing and there is a big job ahead in shifting behaviour and helping to raise awareness about the importance of road safety. The City is excited to continue working with their partners and look forward to helping to build a bicycle network across the municipality.

Brad Dellebuur is the Acting Assistant Director of Transportation for the City of Victoria and spoke on the City's reduced speed limits. In 2014, Victoria City Council put forward a motion to reduce

speed limits on several streets to improve road safety. Speed limits were reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on some streets, including most of the downtown core, and from 50 km/h to 30 km/h on others. The changes came into effect in late 2014/early 2015. After an evaluation period through the summer and fall, an average 2% reduction in speed was noted. In some areas, not much change was noted, e.g., the Cook Street Village. This reinforced the belief that road design and speed are linked, i.e., where there are wide travel lanes, people feel more comfortable increasing their speed. There were fewer extremely high or low speeds. There was a much greater compliance downtown than outside the core.

BC Transit were concerned that reduced speed zones may be impacting on-time performance on frequent transit service routes. Speed limits are one piece of the puzzle when it comes to transit service and the City continues to meet regularly and work cooperatively with Transit.

Public awareness initiatives are ongoing. Portable speed reader boards are being moved around from neighborhood to neighborhood and it is hoped in the future to have enough speed reader boards to put permanent installations into every neighborhood in the City. Coordinated enforcement efforts will continue with the Victoria Police Department, as well as continued analysis of collision data. Also, street design will continue to be studied and if an effective street design that encourages slower speed can be found, there will be less call for enforcement activity.

With reference to vision zero, the City is in quite good shape. Pedestrian collision data over the past 40 years is trending down. While the number of pedestrians using the streets and sidewalks has gone up over the last 40 years, collisions are trending down. As well, while the number of cyclists are increasing, reported accidents are trending down.

A question and answer period followed the presentations.

5. **Media Clips**

There were no media clips.

6. **Other Business**

Funding requests have been received from the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and the UVic Centre for Youth and Society.

Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition

The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition has submitted a request for funding in the amount of \$9,000 to go towards a campaign to try and increase visibility of cyclists by "lighting them up at night." The campaign would run from August to January. A copy of the proposal will be emailed to members with the request that any comments be sent to Chris.

Action: *Defer to August meeting so more information about the proposal can be obtained*

UVic Centre for Youth and Society

As discussed at the June TSC meeting, Dr. Richard Stanwick and Dr. Murray Fyfe met with Tricia Roche and Director Fred Grouzet from the UVic Centre for Youth and Society to discuss funding opportunities. Dr. Stanwick reported that they are very excited about working with the TSC.

The Centre is interested in doing research on youth, marijuana and driving and then turning it into programming and are looking at submitting a major grant application to SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council). The focus would be on youth up to their mid-20's. They would like the TSC to be a partner in this project over a 4-5 year period where we would provide sustaining funding for some of these projects starting with an initial grant, and the Centre would match three of their dollars to every one we put in. The suggested amount for the initial grant is \$50,000, with an additional \$10,000-\$15,000 for the next 4-5 years. This would basically ensure that the TSC would be able to have a large role in determining exactly what the Centre would research. This project would fit in well with the Commission's mandate as it's almost exclusively focused on education

based on high quality evidence driven research. This is an exceptional opportunity to have a world class research centre working on the very problems we want to solve in the CRD.

As part of this, the CRD would need to write a letter to say that the Commission's grants can only be spent on actual project work, and would not be subject to 25% off the top that universities usually take off grants for administration.

During discussion of this proposal, John Hicks commented that we should get clarification on the grant submission deadline and approval process as this would have an impact on the way we do our budget. There would need to be a contingency plan in place in case the Centre does not get the major grant they are hoping for.

It was agreed that more information is needed before a final decision is made about the funding amount. Tricia Roche and Fred Grouzet will be invited to attend the September TSC meeting to discuss this project further. Also, Dr. Stanwick suggested Colin Plant, Chris Foord and John Hicks meet with them prior to the September meeting. Members should email Chris with comments or questions they may have about this proposal.

MOVED by Bill Laughlin, **SECONDED** by Barb McLintock, that approval in principle be given to co-sponsoring a joint project with the UVic Centre for Youth and Society to combat a variety of youth at risk issues, with details to be negotiated. **CARRIED**

7. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks said that there is approximately \$40,000 - \$45,000 remaining in the surplus funds. There are several committed items that haven't yet been expended. With the way the budget cycle works, the current budget needs to be finalized and then start on next year's budget next month.

In terms of the proposed project with the UVic Centre for Youth and Society, there would need to be a back-up plan. Because the grant approval process generally takes 9-12 months, the money would be in limbo until some form of approval came through. The funds wouldn't be released until the Centre has received grant approval.

➤ Advertising/Allocation of Surplus Funds

It's time to start the new cycle of CTV ads and it was agreed that the ones that should be running now are alcohol/drug impaired driving and distracted driving.

Action: Alan Perry will provide additional information on advertising and social media advertising at the August meeting. He will also have further discussions with Chek TV about what they would offer us in terms of advertising.

➤ Scholarship Update

The deadline for applications for the Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship has been extended until July 31. So far, five applications have been received.

8. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ Letter to CRD Board recommending mandatory use of bike helmets on trails

Action: John Hicks to check this through Regional Parks. Defer to August meeting.

➤ Intersection Safety Cameras

Action: Defer to August meeting.

➤ Reaching out to New Government

Action: Defer to August meeting.

9. **Member Updates**

- **RoadSafetyBC**
No updates

- **ICBC**
Colleen Woodger provided the following update:
 - Current and upcoming campaigns will focus on impaired driving, distracted driving, back to school and pedestrian safety.

- **Youth and Children**
Judy Dryden provided the following update:
 - The BCAA and the United Way lower mainland have sent out to car seats and booster seats to the Cridge Centre, Island Metis Family and Community Services, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, and Pauquachin First Nations.
 - The special needs car seat issue is ongoing. Transport Canada has asked for more information by the end of July. Victoria General and Queen Alexandria want to provide input on this issue as well.

- **Seniors**
No updates

- **Active Transportation**
No updates

- **IRSU**
No updates

- **CVSE**
No update

- **Vancouver Island Safety Council**
No update

10. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at noon in The Lakes banquet room.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.