

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, October 11, 2018
The Lakes Banquet Room, 4670 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria

Members: S/Sgt. Ron Cronk, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Judy Dryden, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Chris Foord, Community Member (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Janelle Hatch, Island Health
Marnice Jones, School Districts
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Todd Litman, Walk On Victoria
Barb McLintock, BC Coroner's Service
Colin Plant, CRD Director (Chair)
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety Division

Associates: S/Sgt. Marc Chateau, Saanich Police
Cst. Glen Davies, Central Saanich Police
Cpl. Dawn Gilhen, Sooke RCMP
John Hicks, CRD
Sgt. Shannon Perkins, Victoria Police
Dr. Richard Stanwick, Island Health

Regrets: Erin Anderson, RoadSafetyBC
Corey Burger, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Shawn Haley, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Alan Perry, Media
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, UVic
Rudi Wetselaar, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Funding Application from Victoria Police Department re Wait Until You Get Home Education Campaign
- Request by Vancouver Island Safety Council for letter to be sent to Coroner's Service

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Murray Fyfe, that the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2018

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Colleen Woodger, that the minutes of the meeting held on September 13, 2018 be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Plant thanked Vice-Chair Foord for chairing last month's meeting in his absence. He said that with the municipal election coming up on October 20, if he is not re-elected, there may be no representation from the CRD at the November TSC meeting as the Board won't have met to appoint anyone. In case this is his last meeting, he thanked everyone for their participation.

He commented on the several motorcyclist deaths that have occurred this fall and noted that more than ever at the street level, people are talking about road safety. At the UBCM AGM, a motion was passed endorsing modernization of the Motor Vehicle Act to become a Road Safety Act. The Commission received a presentation on this topic in January 2018 from Dr. Kay Teschke and there are many things that would be of interest which we may want to weigh in on through the CRD Board if those changes do go forward. It would be significant if the provincial government makes this change.

Chair Plant said if the Commission agrees, that he would like to get the message out to the local media that 70% of the responses received regarding a proposed point to point speed trial project on the Malahat were in favour. The TSC carried out the campaign to get public input as requested by the province, but nothing is being done even with the high number of favourable responses.

After discussion, it was agreed to get this information out to the media and added to our website, along with a copy of the letter from the Minister giving the survey results and a copy of the information that the TSC compiled for the campaign.

4. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks advised that the budget is essentially capped now, however, because of some lower than estimated expenditures, there is capacity for the Victoria Police Department funding application which was distributed to members via email.

John gave a brief summary of the application which is focused on the lack of educational material around the message of impairment from marijuana.

Sgt. Shannon Perkins, Victoria PD, spoke about the application for funding toward an education campaign called "Wait Until You Get Home." The focus will be that "impaired is impaired," and not on the controversial aspects, e.g., how much a person can have, etc. The plan is to create a media piece that can be turned into a poster or shared on social media. The police are seeing a lot of people using marijuana in vehicles and want to separate those behaviours and believe that's a basic premise everyone can get behind. They are trying to target the retailers that sell marijuana and have them display the poster in their shop. There would be no licensing restriction, so the graphic could be used by other agencies. The TSC logo would be displayed on the poster.

During discussion, it was suggested that the TSC become a co-partner with the Victoria Police Department and it was determined there was enough flexibility with the remaining budget to provide \$2000.

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the funding application from Victoria Police Department for the "Wait Until You Get Home" campaign be approved in the amount of \$2,000 to support the campaign in the creation, production and distribution of the graphic. **CARRIED**

5. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ Marijuana Legalization – Canadian Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines

Dr. Murray Fyfe will distribute these guidelines to members. They are ten evidence-based recommendations from the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse which have been endorsed by many other organizations. The main recommendation regarding traffic safety is recommendation no. 8 which states that "cannabis use impairs your ability to drive a car or operate other machinery. Don't engage in these activities after using cannabis, or while you still feel affected by cannabis in any way." Dr. Fyfe proposed that we consider posting these guidelines on the TSC website or have a link to them.

Chair Plant commented that at the November meeting we should talk about what we are going to do in 2019 to deal with the evolving response that will be required to marijuana legalization. He suggested that a motion stating we will post the guidelines on the website along with a short introduction would let the public know that we are doing something formally.

Dr. Stanwick commented that these guidelines are posted on the Island Health website, along with an article written by Dr. Fyfe which gives an overview of marijuana, and it would be useful to have that link on our website.

Discussion took place on whether these guidelines are too broad and how much relevance they have for the TSC's mandate. We need to make sure that whatever messaging we publish does correspond with the mandate. There is information on both the RoadSafetyBC and Island Health

websites that we could direct people to from our website. It was suggested that a one-page information summary that would be easy for people to understand could be compiled for the website with some basic guidelines around safe use of marijuana. There was also support for the message to be the same as with alcohol, i.e., don't drink and drive, don't smoke and drive, as it becomes complicated when government says if you follow these rules, you'll be fine because both alcohol and pot affect people differently.

It was agreed that further discussion was needed on this topic.

Action: Add to next month's agenda for discussion and decision about how we will proceed

➤ **Bike Helmets – Getting Data for Possible Education Campaign**

Dr. Fyfe has forwarded data from the Canadian Community Health Survey which will be distributed to all members. This survey is done across the country on an ongoing basis and the data can be looked at nationally, provincially, and locally. One of the questions asked periodically is whether people wear a bike helmet when cycling and the last time this question was asked on the survey in 2013/14 the numbers for the CRD population were: for age 12 and up - 80% say they wear a helmet all the time; for youth 12-19 it drops to 50%. The helmet wearing rate in the CRD is much higher than the national numbers. We could draw on this data if we decide to carry out an education campaign.

Chair Plant suggested that strategic planning for 2019 should be added to next month's agenda.

Action: Add this item to next month's agenda for discussion under 2019 strategic planning

➤ **Seatbelts on Intercity/School Buses**

Judy Dryden said that this topic came up because of questions around the Humboldt bus crash. In June 2018 there were amendments to the Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations which meant that all buses other than school buses, transit buses, perimeter seating buses and prison buses, will have to be equipped with lap and shoulder belts. This comes into effect with new buses in September 2020. School buses are made differently, and they have compartmentalization so that if children fall forward they would fall into energy absorbing material. There is also the issue of having seatbelts that would fit both younger and older children on the same bus.

If we wanted to make any recommendations for change, we would have to go through the CRD Board.

Action: Add this item to next month's agenda for discussion under 2019 strategic planning

6. **Member Updates**

➤ **RoadSafetyBC**

No update

➤ **ICBC**

Colleen Woodger provided the following update:

- The distracted driving campaign was successful, with lots of focus on enforcement
- Currently into pedestrian safety and working with local municipalities, police and volunteer groups on more reflective distribution. In Sidney yesterday, several people commented on the CRD wrist bands and two women had them wrapped around their walkers
- The South Island Safety Conference is coming up on November 5 and 6
- The upcoming speaker tour in the spring will target specifically grade 12 students. There will be three different presenters - Steve Serbic, a local firefighter; Nathan Cooke, a parent from Fort Nelson who lost a child, and Heidi Cave, a burn survivor from a horrific high school crash in the lower mainland. Colleen invited TSC members to come and see the presenters if they get the chance

➤ **Youth and Children**

No update

➤ **Seniors**

No update

➤ **Active Transportation**

John Hicks provided the following update:

- The Walk and Wheel to School Program was done very successfully with 33 schools across the region participating and a large volume of children and their parents. The trend was for a surprisingly big number of scooters as opposed to bikes
- Volunteer bike counters will be out doing counts across the region next week
- On October 16, the South Island Prosperity Project is having a transportation showcase in Centennial Square and showcasing some of the different things going on in the region

➤ **IRSU**

S/Sgt. Ron Cronk provided the following update:

- Ramping up for an impaired driving campaign to coincide with the marijuana legislation
- Next week is the BC Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Committee meeting in Vancouver and the topic of drug impaired driving will likely be a priority. Sgt. Cronk expressed concern about the lack of preparedness

➤ **CVSE**

No update

➤ **Vancouver Island Safety Council**

Bill Laughlin provided the following update:

- There has been a big spike in motorcycle fatalities and crashes with the majority of them being the rider's fault. Bill has contacted the Coroner's office to ask them to do more in-depth questioning and received only "a thank you for your email" response. He would support the TSC sending a letter to the Coroner's Service requesting that after fatalities occur, more in-depth information is gathered on the history of the rider, e.g., age, training, how long they've been riding, type of bike being ridden at the time, etc., to get evidence so they can take the next step forward in terms of whether training should be mandatory.

Barb McLintock replied that most of those questions are asked now by the Coroner's Service but it is a slow process to gather all the information on what may have contributed to the crash. Training may be the one thing that isn't taken into account.

After discussion, it was decided that Bill Laughlin and Barb McLintock will have a conversation on this issue.

Action: Update to be provided at the November TSC meeting

➤ **GVCC**

No update

➤ **Walk On Victoria**

Todd Litman provided the following update:

- There was a lot of discussion at their last meeting regarding pedestrian safety and how they would go about developing safety programs. The number of pedestrian fatalities compared to the number of pedestrian trips is high. Specific recommendations will be developed over the next few months and he will possibly bring them through the TSC. Chair Plant suggested this is something that could be considered in the strategic planning for 2019 if requested.

➤ **Municipal Police Forces**

S/Sgt. Marc Chateau, Saanich PD, provided the following update:

- He will bring information on MVI fatalities in Saanich over the last ten years to the next meeting
- There is a lot of work to do with officers to bring them up to speed re marijuana legalization. There will be some roadblocks in the period immediately after legalization so that the public is aware the police are out there

Sgt. Shannon Perkins, Victoria PD, provided the following update:

- They are prepared to investigate drug impaired driving using standard field sobriety and drug recognition experts. They have just received information from the province re changes to motor vehicle forms, etc., and it will be challenging to train 400 officers in a week. The testing device is controversial
- Bus lanes are being launched in November

Cst. Glen Davies, Central Saanich PD, provided the following update:

- Traffic safety is a huge issue for Central Saanich Municipality and is a priority of Central Saanich Police. He is very interested to be involved in the TSC

Cpl. Dawn Gilhen, Sooke RCMP, provided the following update:

- Everyone is putting forth an effort to train as many officers as possible re upcoming marijuana legalization. Sooke will have two drug recognition experts and are looking to do 50% training for standard field sobriety testing in the next few months and then move on from there and get everyone trained

➤ **BC Transit**

No update

➤ **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project**

- Dr. Frederick Grouzet will attend the November meeting to give an update

7. Other Business

We have heard from a group from the Westshore who are planning a fun run in April with proceeds going to the TSC Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship fund. They are doing some media with the two past winners of the scholarship. The money can be used to augment next year's scholarship, or if it is a significant amount, the TSC could look at making another decision.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at noon in The Lakes banquet room.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.