

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, December 12, 2019
Greek Community Hall, 4648 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. Frederick Grouzet, UVic Centre for Youth and Society (for Dr. P. Sukhawathanakul)
Janelle Hatch, Island Health
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Don Legault, MOTI (for Shawn Haley)
Cliff McNeil-Smith, CRD Director
Alan Perry, Media
Edward Pullman, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Dr. Richard Stanwick (for Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health)
Rudi Wetselaar, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement

Associates: Sgt. Al Gurzinski, Saanich Police
John Hicks, CRD
Sgt. Ryan O'Neill, Victoria Police
Dallas Perry, BC Transit
Inspector Tim Walton, RCMP Traffic Services

Regrets: Erin Anderson, RoadSafetyBC
Marnice Jones, School Districts
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Foord and Co-Chair Stanwick in Chair Fyfe's absence.

The following item was added to the agenda:

- City of Victoria Richardson Street Advisory Bike Lanes

1. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED by Ron Cronk, **SECONDED** by Cliff McNeil Smith, that the agenda be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

2. **Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2019**

MOVED by Judy Dryden, **SECONDED** by Bill Laughlin, that the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2019 be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

3. **Chair's Remarks**

Vice-Chair Foord noted that Alan Perry is stepping down from the Commission after 17 years. He thanked Alan for his years of service and his invaluable contribution to so many of the campaigns undertaken by the TSC.

4. **Priority Business**

➤ **Budget Update**

John Hicks reported that the budgets are coming up to a close for this year. We do have a little more money than was expected. \$10,000 has been dedicated to advertising for the first six months of next year and about \$8,000 will be carried forward.

➤ **Strategic Planning for 2019**

• **Be Truck Aware Campaign**

Alan Perry noted that CHEK is going to start to gather some video footage for this campaign.

The first two ads running on CHEK will be on cannabis, including edibles, and on texting and driving.

- **Cruise with Courtesy**
- **Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety and Visibility**

This campaign will be done when the weather is better. We are also waiting to see what's happening with the proposed bike lanes in the City of Victoria.

Dr. Richard Stanwick commented that it is now riskier to be a pedestrian than to be in a car. Canada is among seven industrialized countries where there has been an increase in pedestrian deaths, due in part to the huge improvements to vehicle safety made by the automotive manufacturers. He questioned whether it is advisable to keep promoting active transportation and walking when so many pedestrians are being hit. He also noted that Saanich has been designated by the World Health Organization as a senior-friendly community and one of the things being promoted as part of it is reducing speed limits to make crashes survivable.

Discussion was held on whether ads on pedestrian safety should be moved to an earlier time frame. It would be relatively easy to do, with the main message being to make eye contact with drivers and to be visible. Edward Pullman commented that speed limits are set based on ideal conditions and suggested it would be a good idea to promote slowing down when conditions aren't ideal due to weather, darkness, etc. Alan Perry suggested this could be part of the campaign done in February – April.

Action: Alan Perry to advise CHEK

Dr. Richard Stanwick mentioned autonomous cars and the ability to sense pedestrians, etc. Stopping distance of those vehicles isn't perfect and we don't know how fallible the pedestrian identification device is. Where could that be worked into the messaging? As we move to more enhanced vehicle features, we will need to add the topic of inattentive driving to our ads.

S/Sgt. Ron Cronk noted that as far as the timing of the ads is concerned, the Traffic Safety Committee of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police has a yearly campaign calendar where certain months are dedicated to particular enforcement practices. He suggested that if we try to dovetail our efforts to the bigger picture, we could get out a consistent message with more staying power. Ron will provide a copy of next year's calendar. If we know in advance when certain enforcement practices are targeted, we could plan our campaigns in conjunction with them.

- **Road/Sidewalk/Trail User Attitudes – Take it Seriously**
- **Cannabis and other Impairment**

➤ **Priorities for Next Year**

It was agreed that there is still a need for ads around distracted driving and impaired driving. Driver inattention is another area that we should target. Sgt. Ryan O'Neill commented that with the impaired driving message, we should particularly be focusing on and educating new drivers and it was suggested that this would work well as a social media campaign. It is never too early to engage youth in conversations, even before they think about their driver's license.

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

- Letter from Walk on, Victoria to CRD Parks – Deferred to January meeting

6. **Member Updates**

- **RoadSafetyBC**
No update

- **ICBC**
No update
- **Youth and Children**
Judy Dryden said that she has been away in Australia and commented on a couple of things she noticed there. In many of the cities, all the cyclists wear helmets and there are a lot of rental scooters and bikes. There are different styles of bike lanes and on one of the walkways in Brisbane, there were pedestrians walking in both directions on one side and cyclists biking in both directions on the other side. Also, buses in Australia have seat belts and drivers announce that seat belts should be worn, and you could be fined if you don't wear one.
- **Seniors**
No update
- **CRD**
John Hicks provided the following update:
 - The Malahat report and recommendations will be coming out very soon. It's important to note that it will be a sensitive topic and there is no formal position from the CRD or TSC. If there are media requests or people looking for additional information, they should be referred to John and he will put them in contact with the CRD media liaison. We need to ensure that the TSC is not seen as taking a position.
- **IRSU**
S/Sgt. Ron Cronk provided the following update:
 - December is impaired driving month at the provincial level and last Friday and Saturday was the national enforcement push.
 - During a five-hour enforcement campaign on the Malahat last Sunday, 19 cars were seized for excessive speeding.
 - IRSU recently carried out a successful joint operation with CVSE to target commercial vehicles.

In response to a question, discussion took place on where we are in terms of drug testing. Drug recognition experts are pushing demands for blood tests now. Roadside testing will only show cocaine, meth, and marijuana whereas blood testing will give everything, including all the other cannabis substances. It becomes more technical for the police and requires more resources to do the job. Dr. Stanwick commented that drug testing is getting more and more sophisticated and the technology that's being developed for the pre-testing of specimens will be helpful.
- **CVSE**
Rudi Wetselaar provided the following update:
 - Several suspended drivers who were operating commercial vehicles have recently been removed from the road, not just in the CRD but right across the island. The number is higher than usual.
 - CVSE has been taking part in roadblocks with partner agencies.
 - Coming up soon, CVSE will be setting up a joint check with a forest service agency, as well as doing some checks with ICBC's investigation unit.
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council**
No update
- **GVCC**
Edward Pullman provided the following update:
 - The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society had their joint AGM last month and voted to merge the two organizations and combine boards. This is being done to leverage their strengths and be able to offer more services to the community. Rebranding is expected in time for the Bike to Work Week launch in April.
- **Walk On, Victoria**
No update

- **Municipal Police Forces**

Sgt. Al Gurzinski, Saanich Police, provided the following update:

- Counterattacks are taking place. Also have been getting out a lot with regular traffic safety unit and patrol units.
- Have been heavily involved in the Ash Road court case and waiting for the decision later this month. It's been a long time coming and hopefully it will be a good decision. It was a difficult file to manage and investigate and there was a lot of good work done by a lot of people.
- Many complaints about speeding in areas of Saanich are still being received and the police continue to put out speed reader boards and determine that there really isn't a lot of speeding. 85% of drivers are doing the speed limit or less. It seems that everyone notices the 15% of drivers that are speeding.

Sgt. Ryan O'Neill, Victoria Police, provided the following update:

- A lot of driving complaints are being received and in doing some analysis, it has been found that the statistics don't support the complaints. Another area of complaint has been about speeding on Richardson Street, but investigation shows that most drivers are abiding by the speed limit.
- For encouragement to traffic members, a point system is in place around whatever the monthly focus is, e.g., distracted driving, impaired driving, bike safety, etc.

- **BC Transit**

Dallas Perry provided the following update:

- Transit is waiting for the inbound bus lanes on the Trans Canada to be completed. It's going to change Westshore and change how Transit delivers their service.

Inspector Tim Walton asked if there was any thought to an enforcement campaign when the lanes do open. Dallas said that drivers travelling in bus lanes is an ongoing issue that they are trying to address.

- **MOTI**

Don Legault provided the following update:

- Re the McKenzie interchange project, the timeframe for opening up under McKenzie Avenue is December 20.

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

- Frederick Grouzet said that things are slowing down because students are doing exams. Generally, there are a lot of things in progress.

7. Other Business

- **Sign for unmarked crosswalks**

A sign proposed for unmarked crosswalks reading "All intersections are crosswalks - Stop for me" was brought forward by the GVCC for further discussion. Edward Pullman suggested that this is something we could put some branding on and distribute to community associations, neighbourhood groups, etc. It may be something we would want to talk to municipalities about first. Besides the reflector arm bands we distribute, is there other mass material we could produce to promote safety? He sees value in getting our branding out with materials, besides just with advertising.

- **TSC membership – Coroners Service; Media**

Vice-Chair Foord reported that Joe Perkins from CHEK will be filling one of the two media seats on the Commission beginning in January.

Action: Vice-Chair Foord will contact the Coroners Service about a representative on the TSC as Carolyn Maxwell was unable to accept the appointment

During a discussion around TSC membership, Richard Stanwick talked about the TSC being advisory to the CRD in terms of providing input. If things were to come up at the CRD, this would be a good place to have them considered rather than just being a one-way pathway to the CRD. At some point, would it be worthwhile to explore that? Being responsive to the CRD and maintaining relevance to the CRD is something else we need to entertain in terms of how we select our membership and what value we bring to the CRD.

➤ **Richardson Street Advisory Bike Lanes**

Vice-Chair Foord talked about the proposed idea of advisory bike lanes on Richardson Street. Edward Pullman commented that you see this type of bike lane frequently in rural areas in the Netherlands on roads where there is no centre line. The GVCC concern is that even with the traffic diversions proposed on Richardson, there are still well over 2000 cars anticipated a day. The design guidelines for advisory bike lanes call for a much lower number of cars. He doesn't think that these bike lanes will go ahead given the negative feedback.

The City is going ahead with advisory bike lanes on Humboldt from Douglas to Vancouver Streets. Vehicle counts on that section of the road are around 1000-1500.

Alan Perry suggested that although the Richardson Street bike lanes are probably not going anywhere, this is something to watch from a traffic safety point of view. He also suggested we should monitor what happens with the advisory bike lanes on Humboldt if they do go ahead.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2020 at noon at the Greek Community Centre. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:27 pm.