

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 10, 2020**  
*(Meeting held virtually)*

**Members:** Erin Anderson, RoadSafetyBC  
Corey Burger, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition  
Chris Foord, Community Member  
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health (Vice-Chair)  
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, UVic Centre for Youth and Society  
Janelle Hatch, Island Health  
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council  
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria  
Cliff McNeil-Smith, CRD Director (Chair)  
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, UVic  
Rudi Wetselaar, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement  
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

**Associates:** Sgt. Al Gurzinski, Saanich Police  
John Hicks, CRD  
Sgt. Ryan O'Neill, Victoria Police

**Regrets:** Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact  
S/Sgt. Ron Cronk, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit  
Shawn Haley, MOTI  
Joe Perkins, Media

**Recording Secretary:** Arlene Bowker

Chair McNeil-Smith called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED** by Bill Laughlin, **SECONDED** by Janelle Hatch, that the agenda be approved. **CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2020**

**MOVED** by Corey Burger, **SECONDED** by Bill Laughlin, that the minutes of the meeting held on October 8, 2020 be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

**3. Chair's Remarks**

Chair McNeil-Smith thanked all members of the Commission for their participation in 2020. It has been a challenging year since the start of the pandemic in March. He also thanked John Hicks for the support work he does for the Commission, and thanked Arlene Bowker for organizing communications with members and producing the minutes and agendas.

Chair McNeil-Smith commented on changes to the TSC membership and thanked members who are leaving for their service to the Commission. Dr. Murray Fyfe is a long-standing member of the Commission and will be leaving at the end of this year. Chair McNeil-Smith noted that he has enjoyed working with Dr. Fyfe in their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair. Sgt. Ron Cronk will be retiring from IRSU at the end of December and stepping down from the Commission in that role, however, in February he will be replacing Bill Laughlin as the representative from the Vancouver Island Safety Council as Bill will be retiring.

Chair McNeil-Smith also noted that at yesterday's CRD Board meeting, he was reappointed to other committees and commissions and will not be serving on the TSC in 2021. Mayor Fred Haynes from Saanich has been appointed as the CRD Board representative on the Commission. Elections will be held in January to appoint a new Chair and Vice-Chair on the TSC.

#### 4. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ **Inclusion/equity Statement for the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship Application**

Janelle Hatch provided information on the proposed inclusion/equity statement which she, Corey Burger and John Hicks have prepared, and which is based on the CRD statement in use. The statement reads as follows:

“The CRD strives to be a place where inclusion is paramount and people are treated with dignity regardless of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or economic status.”

It was also proposed that lead into the application would be with one of the following two options:

**Option 1:** We welcome applications for this scholarship from all groups

**Option 2:** We strongly encourage applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, racialized persons and those who identify as 2SLGBTQ+

Chair McNeil-Smith proposed the TSC approach this in two parts and asked for a motion for approval of just the inclusion/equity statement.

**MOVED** by Janelle Hatch, **SECONDED** by Corey Burger, that the inclusion/equity statement as presented above, be approved for inclusion in the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship application.

Discussion was held on the motion as follows. Paweena Sukhawathanakul questioned whether we are asking applicants to self-identify. Janelle replied that is not part of the application and said that the statement is about encouraging diversity of applicants. Vice-Chair Fyfe commented that there should be a statement included which says that we are not asking applicants to disclose, i.e., while we strongly encourage, it will not be considered in awarding the scholarship. The Chair said he sees this as an option for an additional sentence to be included in the inclusion/equity statement and proposes a revised statement be brought to the next meeting.

**Revised Motion:**

**MOVED** by Janelle Hatch, **SECONDED** by Corey Burger, that a revised inclusion/equity statement be brought forward to the January meeting. **CARRIED**

Chair McNeil-Smith asked for comments on options 1 and 2.

**MOVED** by Janelle Hatch, **SECONDED** by Corey Burger, that option 2 as presented above be adopted.

Vice-Chair Fyfe asked whether the wording could be a combination of option 1 and 2, rather than one or the other and commented that in terms of the statement, it would be easier to have a statement of what we do consider, e.g., applicants are considered based on financial need, motivation to become a police officer, etc.

The motion was withdrawn, and it was agreed that wording for option 1 or 2 will be revised and brought to the January meeting.

#### 5. Priority Business

➤ **Budget Update**

John Hicks said that budgets have been finalized for next year. With the TSC not meeting for several months because of the pandemic there will be a substantial carryover of approximately \$45,000-50,000 so there is potential to do some fairly extensive work next year if there are significant projects people are interested in moving forward.

➤ **BC Cycling Coalition Project Grant Application**

Paweena Sukhawathanakul provided information on the evaluation of this application based on the established criteria and carried out by the subcommittee consisting of herself, Janelle Hatch and Dallas Perry.

The Coalition asked for funding in the amount of \$10,000 to help update the BIKE SENSE publication which is a bicycle operating guide that is distributed around the province. This publication is based on input from various stakeholders and organizations. In line with the education goals of the TSC to promote road safety, the subcommittee unanimously agreed that it is worth supporting. The subcommittee also noted that there are a few areas they would like more clarification on. Specifically, more information is needed about anticipated challenges such as possibly developing a contingency plan if complete funds are not obtained (i.e., there is a discrepancy between funds confirmed and budgeted amount), elaborating more on the evaluation process (e.g., the roll-out of qualitative surveys), and clarifying the intended audience of this publication. Final approval of the funding application will be contingent upon responses to these concerns.

Discussion took place on the following:

- The Commission has funded this in the past. Overall project cost of \$100,000 seems high
- Publication will be online and printed. Large portion of the budget is for editing, illustrations, printing and distribution; breadth and reach will contribute to cost
- BCCC going after sponsorship as well but the Commission does not directly sponsor so will go through as a grant
- CRD is one of the stakeholders, and it is anticipated that several of the organizations represented on the TSC will be contacted
- Publication should be accessible to those outside mainstream cycling community
- Content needs to be consistent with Motor Vehicle Act

**MOVED** by Paweena Sukhawathanakul, **SECONDED** by Janelle Hatch, that the Commission supports funding the BC Cycling Coalition application in the amount of \$10,000. **CARRIED**

➤ **Update on November 18th TSC Presentation to Planning, Transportation & Protective Services Committee**

Vice-Chair Fyfe provided information on the presentation he made to this committee which focused on the following:

- TSC mandate and membership
- TSC working groups
- Data for trends in traffic related injuries in the CRD compared to other jurisdictions with emphasis on the fact that we have seen gains in terms of improvements around traffic safety for vehicle occupants, but have not seen the same advantage for vulnerable road users
- TSC campaigns with a focus on current campaigns with the UVic Centre for Youth and Society

The presentation was well-received, and the Directors seemed quite interested in the TSC activities. The CRD Board Chair remarked that he would like to see the TSC taking issues and recommendations to the committee with more back and forth consultation. The committee also raised two issues that they would like the TSC to consider: effectiveness of red-light cameras in the region and near miss data for vulnerable users. These items were added to the December meeting agenda.

Todd Litman commented that yesterday the CRD Board was reviewing the MOTI South Island Transportation Strategy which identifies several provincial actions, including many with local and regional participation. The analysis that was done does not look at how each of those proposed strategies would affect safety. He suggested that we raise that issue with the CRD and identify that there is a gap in the traffic safety analysis.

Chair McNeil-Smith responded that he participated in the committee of the whole meeting yesterday which discussed transportation as a CRD strategic plan priority. He noted that the Board has expressed publicly its disappointment with the South Island Transportation Strategy report. Resolutions were passed yesterday to form a new transportation committee, and to go to jurisdictional partners which would include all 13 municipal partners and 3 electoral areas and other transportation agencies to look at the regional transportation plan and to use the information in the SITS report to set priorities and bring those back to the CRD Board. In responding to Todd's comments, he said safety will be a lens that is implied when priorities are being considered.

➤ **Effectiveness of red-light cameras in the region**

John Hicks noted that from Vice-Chair Fyfe's presentation, the committee requested some information back, particularly in terms of the effectiveness of the red-light cameras. It would be a report back to the committee with a general summary of where the cameras are, how they have been working, etc. Erin Anderson said that this is a provincial program run through RoadSafetyBC and she could point John in the right direction to get the information.

Vice-Chair Fyfe clarified that the Committee wanted to know if this is something we could look at, specifically within the CRD. The intention is that the Board would look at the data and use it to support more cameras in the CRD. The first step would be to get back to them advising whether this could be done and if so, then how it could be done. Erin Anderson responded that she could not be part of any kind of analysis on this as it would be a conflict of interest. She would need more scope to know how she is able or not able to participate.

***Action: Motions from the Planning, Transportation & Protective Services Committee regarding this will be brought forward to the January meeting***

➤ **Near miss data for vulnerable users**

Corey Burger commented that at the next Commission meeting he would like to bring forward a motion asking the CRD for a comprehensive data review on traffic safety for vulnerable road users as this is lacking.

Chair McNeil-Smith remarked that the regional transportation plan was approved by the Board in 2014 and the next steps were to pursue a new governance model in the region and to go to a full CRD service. The previous Board from 2014-2018 was not successful in establishing a new CRD service so a new governance model and funding did not come forward. Additional motions were passed yesterday to look at governance and funding. Corey said that this could probably fit into the existing transportation data collection service that is already operating at the CRD. John Hicks said we would need to get that onto the work plan, and it could be taken to the transportation committee meeting which will set up soon.

***Action: Corey Burger will prepare something on this and send to John Hicks***

6. **Member Updates**

• **RoadSafetyBC**

No update

• **ICBC**

No update

• **Youth and Children**

Chair McNeil-Smith noted that Janelle Hatch is leaving the Commission at the end of this year. Janelle said she has enjoyed her time on the TSC. Her replacement from Island Health will be Jade Yehia.

• **Seniors**

Paweena Sukhawathanakul thanked Dr. Fyfe and Island Health for their efforts to help keep everyone safe and expressed appreciation for the work being done in that regard.

She commented that they are launching another round of data collection re older adults. It is a small sample of older adults in the community on a variety of measures, including cognitive assessment and mental and physical health. They will be asking about behaviours specific to COVID-19, including adherence measures, psychological distress and looking at differences in their behaviours as well, e.g., driving behaviours. If anyone has pertinent questions to ask the older adult community, please let Paweena know and she would be happy to consider it.

• **CRD**

No update

- **IRSU**  
No update
- **CVSE**  
Rudi Wetselaar commented that he may be stepping away from the Commission once a replacement can be identified
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council**  
No update
- **GVCC**  
No update
- **Walk On, Victoria**  
Todd Litman said he has been doing research on some of the implications of the South Island Transportation Strategy and will share it with the TSC
- **Municipal Police Forces**  
Sgt Ryan O'Neil, Victoria Police commented that they are busy dealing with the impaired driving campaign. It is challenging with COVID-19 and having to implement new protocols to keep both the police and public safe.
- **BC Transit**  
No update
- **MOTI**  
No update
- **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project**  
Fred Grouzet said that the latest video and ad on distracted driving were launched a couple of weeks ago and they are watching how it is being received on social media. He will have more information about that in January. They have just started working on a third ad and he will bring more information on it in January.

Vice-Chair Fyfe noted that as part of the pandemic, he sits on a committee on unintended consequence which is looking at all the impacts related to measures put in place to control the virus. One of the unintended consequences that happened in the first wave of the pandemic was the substantial reduction in motor vehicle fatalities in the province.

He also commented that he has enjoyed his time on the Commission but is having to step back because the focus of work at Island Health right now is around COVID-19 and it does not leave time for anything else. There is concern about what is going to happen over the holiday season and what might happen in January as a consequence. Also, next year will be busy for 6-9 months with immunizations. He commented that the work of this Commission around traffic safety is critical and he is sorry to be stepping away, even temporarily. He hopes to be able to rejoin in the future.

7. **Other Business**

8. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2021 at noon. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.