

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

Members: Corey Burger, Capital Bike (EP)
Chris Foord, Community Member (EP)
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Centre for Youth and Society, UVic (EP)
Fred Haynes, CRD Director (Chair)
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic (Vice-Chair) (EP)
S/Sgt. Adam Tallboy, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit (EP)
Jade Yehia, Island Health (EP)

Associates: Sgt. Davinder Dalep, Oak Bay Police (EP)
John Hicks, CRD
S/Sgt. Andy Walsh, Saanich Police (EP)

Regrets: Erin Anderson, RoadSafetyBC
Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Shawn Haley, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Todd Litman, Walk on, Victoria
Joe Perkins, Media
Rudi Wetselaar, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Colleen Woodger ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

EP – Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Haynes acknowledged that we are on the unceded territory of the coast Salish people and we sit here with respect as their guests, and we appreciate the responsibility that this brings.

2. Approval of Agenda

Carry forward to next meeting due to lack of quorum

3. Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2021

Carry forward to next meeting due to lack of quorum

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Haynes commented he is pleased to see everyone and noted there are some exciting things to talk about such as the City of Victoria grant application and the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship.

5. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ **Update on advertising**

John Hicks gave an update re the \$10,000 that the Traffic Safety Commission approved in June to extend summer campaigns. Through a partnership agreement, additional funding has been provided to ICBC to extend their campaign and it will be going out extensively on social media. This builds on the Commission work in terms of leveraging existing work from our partners. Thanks to Colleen Woodger for her support with this.

➤ **BCACP Calendar**

- September – Distracted Drivers Campaign/Occupant Restraint Campaign
- October – Drive Relative to Conditions Campaign (Speed/Pedestrian), Shift into Winter
- December – Winter Impaired Driving Campaign

The purpose of putting the BCACP calendar initiatives on our agenda is to act as a reminder for the Commission re the focus of our partners and to try and frame our advertising to support them.

6. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks noted that there are some budget items coming forward today, i.e., a grant application from the City of Victoria and the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship. There has also been a grant application received from the Bike to Work program which will be going for evaluation through the subcommittee.

At this stage our budget is between \$40,000-\$50,000 which we still need to allocate or carry over. It looks like we will have a surplus again. Carrying over an ongoing surplus is problematic because we won't be able to ask for our general incremental increase.

➤ Recommendation re City of Victoria Grant Application

Paweena Sukhawathanakul provided an evaluation summary on the grant application received from the City of Victoria and thanked Dallas Perry, Colleen Woodger and Fred Grouzet for their participation on the evaluation subcommittee. The grant application from the City of Victoria requested \$15,000 towards an education campaign to improve safety and etiquette among individuals walking and cycling on shared road neighbourhood bikeways and multi-use pathways. Subcommittee members felt that there was a lot of merit in the project and that it aligns with the traffic safety objectives of the Commission and believe the project is fundable. There are some items that require more clarification, but given the time specificity of this campaign, it is recommended that the funds be released and have the applicant provide the requested clarification when they can.

MOVED by Paweena Sukhawathanakul, **SECONDED** by Chris Foord, that the grant proposal from the City of Victoria for their education campaign re walking and cycling on shared road neighbourhood bikeways and multi-use pathways be approved in the amount of \$15,000.

CARRIED

➤ Recommendation for Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship

Jade Yehia, Chris Foord and Fred Haynes met to review the seven applications that had been received. Due to the strength of the applicants, it was difficult to choose just one scholarship winner as it was felt that there were four very deserving applicants, and there was also a desire to provide funding for one applicant for two years.

Chair Haynes spoke about the strength of applicants and noted that it was clear that the Cst. Sarah Beckett award process has captured the support of the law enforcement community. Discussion was held to see if there are any options to award more than one scholarship.

John Hicks noted that we are constrained by what the bylaw stipulates which is that the Commission can provide one \$2000 scholarship on an annual basis. Also, it would be problematic to provide funding for a two-year period as budgets are approved on a yearly basis. Previously, we have been able to provide one scholarship from the Commission and a secondary scholarship from funds donated by other groups. We have the capacity to do that again this year as there is \$1800 available in donated funds from the Vancouver Island Slain Police Officers Fund and funds donated in honour of retiring RCMP Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Strachan.

The only way we can change this is by opening up the bylaw. The bylaw review process would take about 18 months as it would have to go out to every participating municipality and electoral area and go through Board approval. Even requesting just this one change in the bylaw will still open it completely and could also mean a full review of the bylaw by CRD Legislative Services.

Corey Burger talked about the sustainability of the fund and commented that if the bylaw is opened to make this change, he would want to have a detailed discussion about several other changes he believes are needed.

After discussion, the following motion was made.

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Jade Yehia, that the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2000 be awarded to Candidate 1; and that a second scholarship in the amount of \$1800 be given to Candidate 3 from funds donated by the Vancouver Island Slain Police Officers Fund and funds donated in honour of retiring RCMP Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Strachan.

CARRIED

A formal presentation to the scholarship winners will be made at the October 12 Commission meeting.

Chair Haynes commented that a discussion could be held on coming up with a strategy on how funds may come in to support a different approach to give more awards. John Hicks noted that we can also encourage applicants who weren't awarded this year to apply again next year.

Jade Yehia recommended that for future consideration, new members be given a link to the bylaw so they are aware of its contents.

7. Member Updates

- **RoadSafetyBC – Erin Anderson**

No update

- **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**

No update

- **Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker**

No update

- **Seniors – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul**

Further to Corey Burger's comment about looking for data from vulnerable road users, particularly around the use of e-bikes, at the Institute there is a lot of interest in trying to gauge how seniors are using e-bikes to enhance accessibility on certain roads and this is something they would like to follow up on.

- **CRD – John Hicks**

- An update was provided regarding the questions on red-light cameras and near miss data for vulnerable road users that came from the Transportation Committee during the Commission presentation to the Committee last year. Paweena Sukhawathanakul is supervising a student working on the red-light camera literature review and Dr. Karen Laberee will be speaking to the Commission next month about some of the work she is doing in terms of tracking near miss information. Once we have the information, we need to package it as part of our annual presentation to the Transportation Committee. This year that will likely be in October and we will need a volunteer to do the presentation.

- John showed some reflector strips that can be used on clothing, shoes, helmets, etc. They are made by a company that will no longer be producing them and is selling them off for \$1.50 US/package, reduced from \$15 US. He is working with CRD staff to come forward with a proposal on getting a package deal and will bring more information to the September meeting.

Chair Haynes questioned if we should be looking at doing some advertising around encouraging cyclists to make themselves more visible. Corey Burger said that there has been a focus on that in various campaigns run by cycling groups so the Commission could take that language and run with it.

- **Integrated Road Safety Unit - Sgt. Adam Tallboy**

The focus has been on the impaired campaign along with all the other police agencies. There has been a disturbing 200% increase in the number of impaired drivers taken off the road. They will be ramping up for the distracted driving campaign in September and working with ICBC to have some events for that.

- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Rudi Wetselaar**

No update

- **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
No update
- **Capital Bike – Corey Burger**
 - One of the pieces they have been focusing on is the safety of people on shared roadways that are parallel to some of the new all ages and abilities bike lanes. For example, people are getting harassed for biking on Cook Street with Vancouver Street being a block over. They are planning on doing some education around this.

Chair Haynes asked whether the UN declaration on climate change will cause people to buy more bikes and Corey said he expects there will be a dramatic increase over the next few years, especially around the use of e-bikes. In 2022, when the CRD does their origin destination travel study, we will get information about numbers of e-bikes in the region.

Chris Foord said from a traffic safety perspective the speed of e-bikes is a concern and there is a need to get the word out that trails are not raceways.
 - Jade Yehia commented that as part of the Island Health COVID Speak Survey there were some questions around transportation. Survey results should be up in September, and she will have more information next month. There may be some data to tap into.
- **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
No update
- **Municipal Police Forces**
 - S/Sgt. Andy Walsh, Saanich Police – In July the focus was on the summer impaired driving campaign. Funding from ICBC allowed them to do some overtime counterattack shifts. They have also been getting out on the lake with their boat patrol and checking boaters.
 - Sgt. Davinder Dalep, Oak Bay Police – Their focus has also been on impaired driving. There was a significant increase in July in 3-day and 90-day IRP's and that has continued into August.
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
No update
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Shawn Haley**
No update
- **Island Health - Jade Yehia**
No update
- **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
It is planned to do the shooting of the third video next week and to have it ready for the following week and then will move to doing the fourth video.

8. Other Business

No additional business

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2021 at noon. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.