

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, February 14, 2023**

Members: Corey Burger, Capital Bike
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Centre for Youth and Society, UVic
Sgt. Andy Harward, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Natalia Heilke, RoadSafetyBC
Steve Martin, Community Member
Dean Murdock, CRD Board
Joe Perkins, Media
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Associates: S/Sgt. Doug Cripps, Saanich Police
John Hicks, CRD
Sgt. Ryan O'Neill, Victoria Police

Guests: Ashley Creed, ICBC Driver Examiner
Lauren Hermansson, Engineering Technician, District of Saanich
Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Services Division, District of Saanich
Brad Munro, Engineering Technician, District of Central Saanich
Yvan Sylvestre, Manager of Infrastructure, District of Central Saanich
Sarah Webb, Manager, Transportation Planning and Development, City of Victoria

Regrets: Neil Arason, Island Health
Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Murdock provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Andy Harward, that the agenda be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

3. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2023

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** Ron Cronk, that the minutes of the meeting held on January 10, 2023 be approved. **CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Murdock thanked members and guests in attendance today and commented on the value of the Commission work in his role as Chair of the CRD Transportation Committee.

5. Presentations on Road Safety

The purpose of these presentations is to provide Commission members with an update on various road safety measures that are in place in the CRD.

Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Services Division, District of Saanich

Saanich is working on a Road Safety Action Plan and Troy covered some of the preliminary data that supports the work being done on the plan. The plan will identify strategies and actions to help people

continue to move safely around Saanich. The goal is to eliminate all serious injuries and fatalities on district streets (Vision Zero). Actions will address deficiencies in critical infrastructure, improve road safety awareness, and implement supportive programs.

Saanich is also working on an update to their transportation plan that was adopted five years ago. A speed limit establishment policy has recently been adopted. It will apply to all streets, however, in order that all the speed limits aren't changed at one time, Council has directed that staff look at nine specific corridors.

Troy highlighted the current state in Saanich as follows:

- Saanich is one of 10 large municipalities in the country that has adopted a Vision Zero policy and will be one of 14 that has a published road safety action plan this fall, and the only municipality on the island.
- A crash occurs every four hours in Saanich, every ten hours there is an injury-causing crash, and there is a fatality every six months on average. Annual crash trends are quite consistent over the last five years.
- 85% of trips in Saanich are taken by motor vehicle and 85% of crashes in Saanich also involve motor vehicles. As expected, many of the total crashes occur along some of the busiest corridors. Pedestrian and bicycle crash locations have also been mapped and show some similarities, but also differences.
- Driver inattention is at the top of the list of contributing factors to severe crashes, followed by speeding and failure to yield right-of-way.
- Work is being done on equity analysis to bring equity into decision making on transportation projects and aims to map the presence of equity-deserving groups based on nine indicators: youth, seniors, low household income, indigenous populations, recent immigrants, visible minorities, people with limited knowledge of English, rent-burdened households and single parent households. Factors can be combined and mapped and then used to prioritize safety projects in areas with larger equity-deserving populations. This is new work so they are still finalizing how it will be integrated into the plan.
- In addition to the analysis already done, network screening will also be undertaken to identify crash prone locations in the transportation network and analyze infrastructure deficiencies.

Troy showed a series of slides displaying some improvements to infrastructure. Examples are: speed cushions; on-street school markings at entrance to school zone; bollards and paint used to formalize walking space; new protected bike lane in conjunction with a land development project, including a floating bus stop, and tactile strips on either side of the crosswalk leading to the bus shelter; traffic circles; raised crosswalks; school zone strips on all school zone signs in Saanich; dedicated cycling push button; parking protected bike lanes; elephants feet marking; concrete median to separate bike lane and roadway in key areas; overhead lighting; modular concrete barriers; automatic walk signals; sensors; and leading pedestrian intervals.

Discussion took place around continued advocacy for modernization of the Motor Vehicle Act. There are several things in the Act that could be tackled that would make a meaningful difference to road safety, without necessarily having to redo the whole Act.

Sarah Webb, Manager Sustainable Transportation Planning and Development, City of Victoria

Victoria is increasing road safety and working towards Vision Zero. GoVictoria is their mobility strategy, and it provides a vision of establishing clean, seamless mobility options for everyone.

Victoria works very closely with Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt around how infrastructure and road regulations apply between the communities and also for a consistent experience. There is ongoing collaboration in thinking about how they are making investments concurrently and together.

One of the key fundamental values of GoVictoria is safety and it is the thing that drives decisions when it comes to investments in the City of Victoria. Victoria has set their objective to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries and there are three major goals to support the Vision Zero target.

- Establish a culture of road safety that comes from building community culture and awareness. Road safety is not easy – every decision made to prioritize vulnerable road users or to make

streets safer will have an impact on someone else who doesn't like it. Building a culture means creating that awareness.

- Ensure that the design and operations of road networks support road safety. Those are the engineering solutions and also how networks are managed, and things are enforced at the local level.
- Integrate emergency response into road network design and planning and work closely with fire, ambulance and police to ensure emergency response planning is built into what is done daily.

While progress has been made, there is more needed. Between 2012-2021 there were 16 fatalities and 15,000 collisions across the city. They have a dashboard which identifies the top priority locations and corridors they are investing in to keep track and analyze data, and to continue to build the support for making investments each year.

There are eight major strategies that are used: enhancing data collection and analysis; capturing stories and insights from partners and public; investing in infrastructure and engineering solutions; managing and regulating the road right-of-way; supporting post-crash care and analysis; raising public awareness and commitment to road safety; improving communication, cooperation and collaboration with partners; advocating to senior levels of government for investments, legislation and technologies to help support road safety strategies.

Victoria is focusing on priority intersections and corridors. In addition to the three corridors in the 2023 capital plan, they will be doing major investments in nine corridors over the next four years, focusing in on safety asset renewal accessibility, targeting both high presence of vulnerable users as well as at risk groups.

Sarah gave the following examples of infrastructure changes in Victoria: removing slip lanes; adding rapid beacons to crosswalks; updating traffic signals; looking at signal timing changes; introducing both pedestrian and cyclist leading intervals; introducing dedicated turn phases; adding protected and off street bike lanes; updated calibration and reduced walking speed in downtown core to try and give more people time to cross; adding paint and bollard solutions in no parking zones at schools and parks; improving overhead and pedestrian focused lighting; adding medians, curb bulges and speed humps on dozens of streets each year.

They also have a speed strategy in terms of reducing local road speed limits, as well as addressing speed limits on collector and arterial streets.

They are spending millions of dollars annually on road safety and it is an opportunity to achieve those goals of creating a more welcoming environment while still helping to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services.

They would like to see the following from the Traffic Safety Commission:

- Support in the media for road safety initiatives of all types
- Advocacy for funding and investments by senior levels of government
- Momentum for continued modernization of the Motor Vehicle Act
- Continuation of funding for regional education projects and encouragement initiatives

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

➤ Update on Transportation Working Group

The Transportation Working Group met yesterday. Troy McKay presented on the Saanich Road Safety Strategy which was well received. The need for modernization of the Motor Vehicle Act was also discussed and a request for advocacy was brought by Victoria and Saanich. There were Ministry representatives at that meeting and they are going to bring an update on this back to the April Transportation Working Group meeting.

7. Priority Business

➤ Strategic Planning

Deferred to next month.

➤ **Budget Update**

The budget won't be fully approved for another month. Our general requisition will be about \$70,000 plus an approximate surplus of \$60,000.

➤ **Review of e-bikes and micro-mobility as it relates to personal use and safety in the CRD**

This item has come through as a directive from the CRD Board and we will need to discuss this in more detail. We do have the capacity to do this research within the Commission by using some doctoral students that we have access to through our UVic members. We can determine where this falls in our priorities when we do our strategic planning.

➤ **Grant application re motorcycle safety initiative**

Ron Cronk presented information on the grant application from Vancouver Island Safety Council, a non-profit organization that teaches the public how to ride motorcycles.

Motorcycles are inherently dangerous. Information compiled by the BC Coroners Service from ICBC 2012-2021 collision data noted that there are 37 fatalities every year, with 92% of the fatalities being male and with the 30-59 age group accounting for 58% of the fatalities. The 2008 BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel identified the lack of training and experience as one of the risk factors.

The Vancouver Island Safety Council is proposing to target high-risk motorcyclists with a Rider Refresher Training Course. Training will occur over a select weekend with a classroom session on Friday evening, closed parking lot riding session on Saturday, and coached/critiqued traffic riding through the CRD. Feedback will be provided to students at the end of the day. The course will be offered in April, May, June and July.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course, a post-course online survey is planned four-six weeks after the training is completed which will allow students time to put their training into real-life riding situations.

Funding in the amount of \$5600 is requested and the Commission will receive prominent recognition on the Vancouver Island Safety Council website.

All queries raised by the sub-committee in their evaluation of the application have been answered and approval of the funding has been recommended.

MOVED by Steve Martin, **SECONDED** by Corey Burger, that funding in the amount of \$5600 be approved for the Vancouver Island Safety Council Rider Refresher Training Program. **CARRIED**

➤ **BCACP Calendar**

- March – Distracted Drivers Campaign/Occupant Restraint Campaign
- May – High Risk Driving Campaign
- July – Summer Impaired Driving Campaign (Alcohol/Drug)
- September – Distracted Drivers Campaign/Occupant Restraint Campaign
- October – Drive Relative to Conditions Campaign
- 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. We could do the advertising ourselves or support any of our partners with additional funding to expand their campaigns.

We will be seeing a lot of messaging in March around distracted driving and occupant restraint campaigns. Commission members are encouraged to use their media outlets to advance this.

8. **Other Business**

9. **Member Updates**

➤ **RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke**

- Buckle BC campaign will be coming up in March.

- Working on RoadSafetyBC strategy revitalization.
- **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**
 - Distracted driving month starts March 1 and will be working with police and volunteers to get out and do their part.
 - May will be the speed and high-risk driving campaign. There will be different projects within that campaign, e.g., speaker tour, school pilot projects, etc.
- **Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker**
No update
- **Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul**
No update
- **CRD – John Hicks**
 - Let's Get Visible campaign was conducted in Sidney two weeks ago. It was very successful and reached over 200 people in two locations. One on the regional trail where there were lots of cyclists and middle school students, and one on the waterfront at the end of Beacon which reached a large number of seniors.
- **Integrated Road Safety Unit – Sgt. Andy Harward**
 - Will be working on some joint projects with ICBC and Saanich Police in conjunction with the BCACP calendar.
- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Rudi Wetselaar**
No update
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
No update
- **Capital Bike – Corey Burger**
 - Last week was Go By Bike Week so please register your trips if you haven't yet.
 - Their AGM was held recently and some new Board members were elected.
- **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
No update
- **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP**
No update
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
No update
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**
No update
- **Island Health – Dr. Murray Fyfe**
No update
- **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
 - Working on a strategy to use the existing safety videos on Tic Toc and invite youth to change or redo them as a way to expand the message.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.