

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Members: Neil Arason, Island Health
Corey Burger, Capital Bike
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Sgt. Andy Harward, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Natalia Heilke, RoadSafetyBC
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Steve Martin, Community Member
Dean Murdock, CRD Board
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Associates: S/Sgt. Doug Cripps, Saanich Police
John Hicks, CRD
Sgt. Manny Montero, Oak Bay Police
Dallas Perry, BC Transit

Regrets: Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Centre for Youth and Society, UVic
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Joe Perkins, Media
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Martin provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2023

MOVED by Ron Cronk, **SECONDED** by Murray Fyfe, that the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2023 be approved. **CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

No remarks

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

➤ **Update on Transportation Working Group**

The next meeting of the Transportation Working Group is on March 15. The group will be reviewing a background report regarding where we are in terms of a transportation service and what functions the region plays versus other jurisdictions. Other items that will be discussed are the E&N and the decision which has come out today, and the Triple A (all ages and abilities infrastructure) definition and how that works across jurisdictions. There is a common definition across the region so that we are all referencing the same public information when reporting on what Triple A means.

6. Priority Business

➤ **Budget Update**

There will be about \$40,000 available to spend on our grants program, and additional funding of approximately \$25,000 for advertising. We will also likely have some additional funds carried over from last year and that will be finalized at the end of this month.

➤ **Strategic Planning**

The data review project is not yet complete, but it is planned to get an update at the April meeting.

Neil Arason, Chair of the Data and Evidence Subcommittee, gave a brief overview of what the data has shown so far. It is fairly typical re accident stats, i.e., alcohol, driver inattention, speed. In comparison with other jurisdictions, we are an average performer. It is useful data, but at the same time the data doesn't necessarily reflect what the solutions are. As noted in the presentations from Saanich and Victoria at last month's meeting, there is a lot of good work being done to improve road safety. We are not making the same progress with vulnerable road users as we are with vehicle occupants. Studies have shown that when communities focus on improving safety for vulnerable road users, the safety of vehicle occupants also improves.

John Hicks provided a summary on some of the items which the Commission has discussed in the past 18 months.

- Commercial vehicle safety and how we can work with RoadSafetyBC to potentially expand some of their programs.
- Status of interval cameras.
- Shared facility etiquette, i.e., how we share the road with different users, including the trail network.
- Commitment to continue the Commission partnership with Chek and UVic on youth designed targeted safety messaging. Messages to date have been on distraction, impairment, and vulnerable road users. There is a gap in terms of messaging on speed so that is something we should look at.
- Direction from the Board to do a review of e-bikes and micro-mobility as it relates to personal use and safety in the CRD. We could potentially collaborate with Saanich and Victoria and the province. They are doing pilot programs so there may be capacity for us to build on those campaigns. It may be possible to get a UVic undergrad student to do a report on this and then we could provide comments back to the Board.
- Looking at what our local government partners are doing across the region. The Saanich Road Safety Action Plan is being rolled out and the Commission can support this in terms of education and advertising.
- Working closely with municipalities and electoral areas across our region so that we have common bylaws. Municipalities are working on common language in terms of how bikes cross streets which relates to elephant's feet in particular, and we could do some messaging and education campaigns as that rolls out. Consistent messaging is important.
- Piggybacking off other campaigns such as distracted driving, impaired driving, etc. We have done this previously by providing additional funding to ICBC to extend their campaigns.

A summary of discussion on possible priorities for the Commission follows.

- Todd Litman – Concerns of crossing guards re drivers not following their direction. Discussion took place on the Safe Routes to School Program in the CRD. The current program meets the needs in terms of safety and action plans for the school, however, school and parent engagement are critical for the program to be effective. The crossing guard program is distinct as it comes back to a funding initiative.
- Andy Harward spoke on the following issues he would like to see addressed.
 - Disconnect between police and Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement operators right now. The connection is not there, and the relationship needs to be strengthened.
 - Most CRD IRSU members have advanced collision investigation background, and he would like to have members attend in-school presentations in conjunction with ICBC.
 - IRSU receives numerous requests from schools for assistance with enforcement. Would like to see increased partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to help make those schools safer.
 - The most challenging enforcement issues are impaired driving and distracted driving. Manpower is always an issue. Speed is one of the more common campaigns they do and that is something that can be done with a limited number of officers. They are also trying to work through getting more of the documents they use into an e-ticketing format.

Discussion took place regarding the connection between enforcement actions and the time away from the road that officers spend in court defending traffic ticket appeals. Of note is the high number of appeals related to distracted driving. Vice-Chair Martin raised the point that one of the important components of the original provincial e-ticketing project was a strategy to reduce the number of appeals, therefore reducing the amount of time officers are tied up in court. An update on the e-ticketing project was requested from RoadSafetyBC.

Action: Natalie Heilke, RoadSafetyBC, to provide an update on the e-ticketing project

- Neil Arason – Strengthening the relationships with MOTI and CVSE are specific things that we could do. Also, literature shows that the only way to change human behaviour is through enforcement and it is critical that we work through our colleagues in enforcement.
- Natalia Heilke – In the current RoadSafetyBC strategy document there is a lot said about the Safe Systems Approach. The idea behind the Safe Systems Approach is that you build systems that are better able to accommodate human error where possible.
- Doug Cripps – In Saanich, still seeing a lot of pedestrians being hit in crosswalks and he would like to see an education component for crosswalk users, as well as educating drivers on what to expect when approaching crosswalks.
The issue of poor lighting at crosswalks was also raised. It was noted that each jurisdiction does their own warrants and there are some general requirements, but there is no standard across the region. This is the type of issue that is coming back through the Transportation Working Group.
- Corey Burger – Logical linkage between police resourcing challenge, Safe Systems Approach, and our data collection. Look at the ten worst places where we are seeing these three common issues and then work with municipal partners to reduce them.
- Doug Cripps – Regardless of poor lighting, some of the more recent incidents in Saanich have been caught on video and show people are not looking left and right before crossing and that has resulted in fatalities. Campaigns re distracted walking were discussed.
- Todd Litman – Commented that unless there is evidence showing that distracted walking is a significant risk factor, he would object to focusing on that. There is a lot of debate amongst pedestrian safety experts about those issues.
It would be valuable to do an inventory of which crosswalks are on streets where the street design encourages drivers to go faster than is safe. It would be a substantial safety strategy to identify high risk crosswalks because the streets are designed for excessive speeds, particularly around schools. This could be part of the comprehensive Safe Routes to Schools initiative. A related issue is whether there are sidewalks on those streets. There could be three related inventories looking at whether high risk suburban streets have sidewalks and crosswalks with sufficient lighting, and whether the roadway is designed for a safe speed level.
- John Hicks – The Commission wouldn't have authority to do anything like that as that is at the municipal level. The intent of the Transportation Working Group is to work on these common issues. Things like the Safe Systems Approach and infrastructure are being examined closely at the municipal level and being rolled out at the municipal level. We can bring issues back to the Working Group but in terms of the Commission, we need to look at the end purpose of this group and what we have available to us.
He also commented that there is always a concern about victim blaming whenever we talk about pedestrian/cycling concerns and taking responsibility, but there is a role for campaigns showing that everybody has a responsibility in road safety--pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. There is the capacity to do that without targeting a specific group or being negative.
- Murray Fyfe – Modal shift. We could do a campaign to encourage people to get out of their cars and use other means of transportation. We have done past initiatives on sharing the road and micro mobility and bringing both of them together is important as we are seeing a lot of conflicts between different types of micro mobility and bikes, pedestrians and vehicles. Also agree with the importance of issues around visibility and crosswalks. We have done a lot of campaigns in the past on visibility.
- Corey Burger – The CRD has a regional information collection service. Can we advocate through the Board for collection of sidewalk data?

On that point, Chair Murdock commented that as Chair of the Transportation Committee, they would welcome recommendations on issues the Commission would like to see the Board take up.

- John Hicks – As we are moving forward with any of these advocacy pieces, it would behoove us to take them back to the Working Group with the engineers so they have an opportunity to respond before it goes beyond that.
- Neil Arason – Requested a brief presentation on the membership and mandate of the Transportation Working Group so that we can understand everyone's role. Chair Murdock commented that would be useful for the Transportation Committee as well.

Action: John Hicks to provide outline of the Transportation Working Group at the April meeting

- Neil Arason – There are hundreds of things that can be done to improve road safety. We need to think about who we are and what it is that we can do specifically. Ideally, we should focus on one or two things in the next year or two that will really have an impact and go all out. There was general agreement with this approach.
- Owen Page – Within the CRD, most of the roads are arterial highways and there's not too many places where they can focus on active transportation on the roads. He has limited budget but is happy to advocate wherever he can.

As per the previous discussion regarding the relationship between the police and CVSE, Owen can try to set up contact with CVSE Director Sean Kelly.

- **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. We have the capacity to do this research within the Commission by using some undergrad students and then forward the information back to the Board.

Action: John Hicks to discuss with Paweena Sukhawathanakul and Fred Grouzet and report back

- **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.

In response to a request, Sgt. Andy Harward commented on IRSU's winter impaired driving campaign. At the beginning of the month, they spent some time in Saanich, then moved into Victoria around the middle of the month, and finished off on New Year's Eve in Langford. They saw considerable stats that night to the point where the towing company couldn't keep up with the number of vehicles being taken off the road. It was a very productive campaign for IRSU.

7. Other Business

8. Member Updates

- **RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke**

No update

- **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**

- Working on an event to be held on May 18 in Westshore. She has invited Fred Grouzet and his group and it is planned to have 150 students view the ads that we have produced and participate in focus groups to provide feedback. Also, exploring the idea of having students recreate the vignettes.

- Supporting the police with distracted driving campaigns. The amount of ticketing is constant.
- **Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker**
No update
- **Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul**
No update
- **CRD – John Hicks**
No update
- **Integrated Road Safety Unit – Sgt. Andy Harward**
 - Working in tandem with ICBC on distracted driving campaign.
- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Myke Labelle**
No update
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
 - May is Motorcycle Awareness Month and he will be bringing more information forward about this.
- **Capital Bike – Corey Burger**
No update
- **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
No update
- **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP – Sgt. Manny Montero, Oak Bay Police**
 - Oak Bay Police have been working on a crosswalk safety project.
 - One of their platoons has gotten pretty much all of the IRP's in Oak Bay since last year and this year. Looking to see if they can get some other people out on the weekend doing IRP's as most of that platoon will be off on a course.
 - Traffic is the number one issue in Oak Bay so members are out every day.
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
No update
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure -Owen Page**
 - Starting to refresh our road markings this month and that will carry on throughout the summer for the entire Island.
- **Island Health – Neil Arason**
 - Adjudicated their Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Program last month and awarded grants to 14 communities across the Island, including three communities in the CRD. Songhees First Nation received a large grant to reduce speed limits, and MOTI will be providing assistance; In Sidney will be upgrading a signal box which will allow implementation of leading pedestrian intervals; Safe infrastructure around Hans Helgeson School in Metchosin.
- **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
No update

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.