

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, September 12, 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
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Steve Martin, Community Member (Vice-Chair)
Dean Murdock, CRD Board (Chair)
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Associates: John Hicks, CRD
Sgt. Manny Montero, Oak Bay Police
Dallas Perry, BC Transit
Sgt. Mark Prill, Saanich Police

Regrets: Neil Arason, Island Health
Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Murdock provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Andy Harward, **SECONDED** by Corey Burger, that the agenda be approved with the following addition: **CARRIED**

- Request by Corey Burger to add discussion item related to support of motions that are going to the Union of BC Municipalities annual convention. To be added under RoadSafetyBC update.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 11, 2023

MOVED by Owen Page, **SECONDED** by Colleen Woodger, that the minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 2023 be approved. **CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Murdock commented that it is great to have a chance to get together with everybody again and said he looks forward to the discussion at this table with a focus on road safety and ensuring that everyone can get around safely. It is always an informative and helpful conversation to have.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

➤ **Update on Annual Report to the Transportation Committee**

Vice-Chair Martin provided an overview of the Commission's annual report which he has prepared and will be presenting to the Transportation Committee on September 13.

The report begins with a review of the Commission mandate and membership. The Commission comes from a broad stakeholder base with a wide range of expertise and collaboration across the sectors. Vice-Chair Martin noted that filling the vacancies that we currently have is a priority.

One of the most important things we need to do this year with the Transportation Committee is to talk about our strategic priority setting process and let them know about the evidence-based review of road safety problems that the Commission undertook. In terms of data and evidence, the top three contributing factors to crashes are distractions, speeding and impaired driving. The top three fatalities by victim are driver, pedestrian and passenger. Also based on the evidence, intersections are the leading location in the CRD for all injuries, and they represent the greatest risk for vulnerable road users. Based on the member discussions and on the data and evidence, the Commission proposes to focus its energy to address the top three road safety problems. Vice-Chair Martin noted that he expects the Transportation Committee will have some input at the meeting tomorrow and he expects to hear from them what they think our priorities should be.

In relation to the strategic priorities, the education and awareness focus will be on pedestrian crossing at both intersections and crosswalks; intersections all users – it takes all users to cause problems and all users are at risk; support for impaired, driver inattention and speed campaigns; and promotion of leading jurisdiction best in class measures to address road safety. Also, proposed advocacy and letting the Transportation Committee know that they will be hearing back from us on some advocacy-oriented proposals.

The next topic covered is the various community partner projects. There are several funded projects underway, including micro-mobility which came through as a directive from the Transportation Committee. Also, an update on the Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship is provided. Hannah Davis of Edward Milne Secondary was the 2022 scholarship recipient.

Chair Murdock thanked Vice-Chair Martin and others who provided support for their work in preparing this report.

Paweena Sukhawathanakul provided an update on the status of the project on micro-mobility. The review of the current research on micro-mobility as it relates to personal use and safety has almost been completed. There is a good amount of emerging research, and it is planned to circulate this information to the Commission in October, with a presentation to follow at the November meeting. The student working with Paweena on this project will be presenting some of this work at the student research conference forum next week. Vice-Chair Martin commented that he will share this information verbally with the Transportation Committee.

Chair Murdock noted that he expects there will be some discussion from the Committee based on the presentation tomorrow and likely as a result of recent news items related to vulnerable road users and some of the data included in the presentation.

Action: Paweena Sukhawathanakul will circulate the research report to the Commission in October, with a presentation to follow in November

➤ **Proposal for P.A.R.T.Y. Program Evaluation**

Fred Grouzet, Paweena Sukhawathanakul and Amelia Smit, the Island Health coordinator of the P.A.R.T.Y. Program, met to discuss the proposed program evaluation. The plan is to look at existing information about the program, with a focus on the online version that has been created. Prior to COVID, the program was in person. Existing data will be collected, and the effectiveness of the online format will be reviewed to see to what extent it makes a difference in students' attitudes. This is one of the aspects we can evaluate to see if the program should go back to being presented in person. Another aspect that will be looked at is the program content and messaging used to inform kids about the potential risk of their road use. The review will go on for more than a year with information to be gathered first, followed by a pilot study. Amelia is already facilitating education sessions in the fall and spring term and feedback forms are provided to students. The survey will be added pre and post to get a sense of whether we can replicate these short-term changes in perceptions of risk.

There will be a request for funding coming to the Commission to support the evaluation.

➤ **Update on Transportation Working Group**

This group is comprised of mostly transportation engineers from across the municipalities, along with representatives from BC Transit, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. A joint

meeting was held yesterday with the Development, Planning and Advisory Committee which is basically the directors of land use from each of the municipalities, and the Intermunicipal Working Group for Climate Action. The results of the origin and destination household travel survey were released which is a survey undertaken to about 4.6% of all households in the region. It is a very large survey and is a very specifically valid representation of how people move across the region. The results will also be going to the Transportation Committee tomorrow. The results show there has been a significant change in active transportation. The one area that had some post pandemic lingering was transit. The average number of trips per household declined as did the number of absolute trips. Trips in the Westshore are increasing, while in the core and Peninsula, trips are declining to a level we haven't had in quite some time.

There was also a presentation from the Integrated Transportation Planning Branch, Planning TogetherBC, which is a project that the province is working on around how best to integrate transportation and land use.

In addition, there was a presentation on the community energy emissions inventory. While not directly related to climate, it does have a lot of information in it which relates to the use of private cars, and different mode shares and the uptake and changes to electric vehicles.

➤ **Update from RoadSafety BC**

- **Status of interval speed cameras on the Malahat**

The implementation of an interval speed camera pilot project on the Malahat would likely require Treasury Board approval, as well as amendment of current legislation, allocation of capital and operational funding and infrastructure expansion. At this time, the province is focusing on the intersection speed camera program and evaluating how that initial program is going before implementing any other technology-based programs.

- **Status of intersection cameras being activated for speed**

There are 140 cameras operating throughout the province, with 2 located in the CRD. Of the 140, 35 of them are equipped for speed. All those locations were chosen based on ICBC crash data. Currently, the province is evaluating the data from the existing cameras and once the evaluation results are received, decisions will be made about future cameras or expansion of the program. There is no specific timeline at this point.

John Hicks commented as a personal observation that he had recently returned from western Australia and noted there are interval cameras everywhere which seem to be working very effectively to keep people obeying the speed limit. Also, there was a lot of road safety messaging and signs warning that interval cameras were in use.

Other discussion took place around whether there is capacity for the cameras to monitor speeds, providing survey data to RoadSafetyBC to show public support for the cameras and the idea of offering steep discounts for fines if people pay early which would help lessen the time officers spend in traffic court. It was also mentioned that people are more concerned about the points on their license than the fines.

Action: RoadSafetyBC will provide additional information at the October meeting

As raised earlier in the meeting, Corey Burger spoke about the motion going forward from Saanich to the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities convention which recommends that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras with a focus on changing driver behaviour on local roads.

There is not enough time to ask the Board to write a letter of support for this motion, but it is recommended that in future, we look earlier in the year to see if there is anything we want to ask the Board to support. For this year, it was suggested we wait for the provincial response to the UBCM motions and write to the Transportation Committee after that with any recommendations.

6. **Priority Business**

➤ **Budget Update**

Funding in the amount of \$15,000 approved at the June meeting for the UVic Centre for Youth and Society re our advertising campaign has been released. Our budget is looking strong, and members are encouraged to bring forward any plans for campaigns or projects to the next meeting.

➤ **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.

7. **Other Business**

Chair Murdock said that CRD Board Chair Plant has noticed that our safety awareness signs on the side of highways haven't changed recently and he is encouraging the Commission to consider updating them. We have the budget to do that, and this is something the Commission may want to consider.

Action: Add to October meeting agenda for discussion

8. **Member Updates**

➤ **RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke**

No update

➤ **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**

- September is distracted driving month and ICBC are supporting through social media and regular media. Grateful to officers who are out there doing enforcement. Lots of volunteers who are focusing on school zones this month with a secondary message of focus on the road and leave the phone alone.
- Ramping up for pedestrian safety which rolls out in October and will be distributing reflectors which are very popular.
- Connected with the CRD Ready Step Roll school program. More schools are participating and will continue to support them.
- Have been doing some good work with indigenous communities on various initiatives, and continuing to book more car seat training for some of the communities.

➤ **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**

- Number of projects going on in the last couple of months. Last year a lot of the impaired drivers getting caught outside major festivals in the Lake Cowichan area were from the CRD so this year CRD ISRU sent some cars up to Lake Cowichan to assist at the festivals and their presence seemed to help. They did nab some impaired drivers as well as handing out some other violation tickets.
- Locally they have been helping the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure with their construction zones.

- Some community concerns were received about speeding on the reduced speed corridors, most notably on Oldfield Road by Walton. They did some enforcement both on the Central Saanich and Saanich sides and slowed some people down.
- Supporting ICBC in one of the joint force operations and working with Saanich on a distracted driving campaign.
- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Myke Labelle**
No update
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
 - Into the last month of training this year and have been sold out since June. Kelowna District Safety Council, which is a sister organization, are closing their doors. The Vancouver Island Safety Council is going to be one of the last non-profit motorcycle schools in the province.
- **Capital Bike – Corey Burger**
 - Go By Bike Week is coming up from September 16th-29th with celebration stations until the 21st.
- **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
No update
- **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP**
Sgt. Mark Prill, Saanich
 - Keeping busy with enforcement, school zones, distracted driving and lately have been helping with the reduced speed corridors. Initially Speed Watch volunteers were out, and they didn't start enforcement for two to three months. In the last month they have been targeting Ash Road. A lot of tickets have been issued, but people are starting to slow down.
 - Lots of inquiries and still investigating the fatality at Interurban and Grange. It was a marked pedestrian activated crosswalk so looking at what went wrong there. Also, the same night, about an hour after the fatality, there was a serious high speed motorcycle crash on Tillicum.**Sgt. Manny Montero, Oak Bay**
 - Have started their school campaigns and getting into school zones.
 - Conducting distracted driving campaign as well.
 - One member has given out four impaired driving charges in four shifts. It's concerning that people are still drinking and driving, and seeing more people impaired by drugs as well.
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
No update
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - Owen Page**
 - The third round of sweeping has started so should see improved conditions for cyclists.
- **Island Health – Murray Fyfe**
 - Have started to prepare for next year's Vision Zero Grants. Last year 15 grants were given out around the island and there were some great projects that were funded. One was in Metchosin and the District of Metchosin and School District 62 did a media event last month to highlight crosswalk improvement at Hans Helgesen Elementary. In terms of last year's recipients, at next month's Injury Prevention Symposium in Vancouver, the whole afternoon part of the symposium will be dedicated to the Vision Zero Grants with presentations by grant recipients. Following is the symposium webpage that contains a link to the registration page: [BCIRPU 25th Anniversary Symposium | BCIRPU \(injuryresearch.bc.ca\)](https://www.bcirpu.ca/25th-Anniversary-Symposium).
- **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
 - Currently working on the script for the next video which will be on intersection safety. The objective is to have the video ready by the end of October.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on October 10, 2023 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.