

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2024**

Members: Neil Arason, Island Health
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Collaborative for Youth and Society, UVic
Natalia Heilke, RoadSafetyBC
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Steve Martin, Community Member (Chair)
Dean Murdock, CRD Board (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic

Associates: S/Sgt. Doug Cripps, Saanich Police
Adam Defrane, MADD
Jay Douillard, CRD

Regrets: Douglas Baer, Capital Bike
Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Sgt. Jereme Leslie, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Keith Vass, Media
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Martin provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Ron Cronk, **SECONDED** by Paweena Sukhawathanakul, that the agenda be approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2024

MOVED by Ron Cronk, **SECONDED** by Paweena Sukhawathanakul, that the minutes of the meeting held on September 10, 2024 be approved. **CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Martin noted that Adam Defrane from MADD is in attendance today and is willing to join the Commission as an associate member. Chair Martin said how pleased he is to have a representative from MADD Canada on the Commission.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

➤ **Malahat Highway Bus Improvements to Promote Traffic Safety**

Additional discussion took place on this item as raised at last month's meeting. Todd Litman proposed a working group be formed to identify whether the Commission should promote an analysis of frequent and affordable public transit as a traffic safety strategy on the Malahat.

The Commission can't advocate directly to BC Transit but could make a recommendation to the CRD Board. It was suggested that it would also be necessary to get the Cowichan Valley Regional District on side. BC Transit representative Dallas Perry commented that they would be open to looking at this idea.

Vice-Chair Murdock noted that he sits on the Transit Commission which is responsible for the regional system. The challenge for the Transit Commission is that there is competition for resources to serve Greater Victoria, so the question is whether resources be reallocated for the Malahat vs increasing service to circulate within the system regionally. The issue is whether we could attract

investment or interest from senior government through BC Transit as a provincial agency. He believes there would be an appetite for conversation at a broader level to see if there is a way we could get support to move people safely between the two regions.

Todd commented that currently the province expects local governments to provide half of the subsidy requirements. In this case, achieving hourly service between Victoria and Nanaimo would cost approximately \$10-15 million a year, but the Ministry is currently budgeting \$164 million to add barriers on 1.5 km of the Malahat through Goldstream Park. What he is hoping will come out is a recognition that frequent and affordable bus service is justified on safety grounds. If public transit enhancements are recognized as a safety strategy, the Commission could help build that case. We could initiate that research and that has implications for the Malahat and throughout the province.

Vice-Chair Murdock said that the Transportation Committee and the Board would be very willing to suggest to the province that this is something they should look at. We can probably initiate a case and recommend to the Committee this be taken to the Board and the province. A compelling rationale on road safety should be included and, in that respect, this does fit within the mandate of the Commission.

It was agreed that Todd would provide a one-page briefing note summarizing why this is important. The Commission could forward that to the Transportation Committee with a request that the Committee recommend to the Board that the CRD write to the province and include supporting rationale.

Neil Arason offered to find a contact for the traffic safety committee in the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

Action: Todd Litman will prepare a one-page briefing note and circulate prior to the next meeting

➤ **Follow-up re Automated Speed and Interval Cameras – Implementation Recommendations (Update)**

The recommendations have not been finalized. It is planned to bring something back for the November or December meeting. Chair Martin referenced a report from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation which looked at automated speed cameras across the country and highlighted some potential ways that the province could move forward with that.

Action: Neil Arason to circulate report from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation

➤ **Expansion of UVIC research re P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program (Paweena)**

This is a follow-up on the presentation at last month's meeting of the preliminary findings on the evaluation of the PARTY Program. Findings from the pilot evaluation done with two schools in the spring found that there were trends towards safer attitudes and Paweena would like to request some additional funding to continue to collect more data with more schools in the fall and spring to be more representative.

Paweena also commented on a trend from last time showing that a greater proportion of youth now report being in the car with a cannabis impaired driver, more than alcohol.

MOVED by Steve Martin, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the Traffic Safety Commission approve funding in the amount of \$21,000 to carry out additional research for the evaluation of the PARTY Program. **CARRIED**

➤ **Report on Island Health Meeting with School District Superintendents re representative on the Commission**

Murray Fyfe has reached out to school districts to see about a representative and hopes to have a response by our next meeting.

➤ **Update on Transportation Working Group**

There is not much to update since last month. The next meeting of this group will be on November 19. It will be an in-person meeting so will be a good opportunity to do some

brainstorming, particularly on the regional transportation service. It was noted that this service establishment bylaw did receive three readings from the Board and is now with the Inspector of Municipalities. If that process goes through, it will be going through an alternate approval process and sent out to the electorate. That will likely begin in 2025 and run for 45 days.

Chair Martin suggested that at some point we should have a presentation on the regional transportation service.

6. Priority Business

➤ Selection/Approval of Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Five applications were received for this year's scholarship. The applications were evaluated by Ron Cronk, Doug Cripps and Colleen Woodger based on established criteria. The winner by consensus was Macy Johnston, a graduate of Stelly's Secondary School, who is currently attending Dalhousie University. It is hoped to have an in-person presentation to Macy next time she is in Victoria.

Ron Cronk commented that a previous winner of this scholarship is now a member of the Victoria Police Department.

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the 2024 Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2000 be awarded to Macy Johnston. **CARRIED**

➤ Budget Update

There is approximately \$30,000 remaining in the budget for third party payments and \$13,000 left in advertising.

➤ 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.

This month's campaign is about driving relative to conditions. Sgt. Doug Cripps noted that later in the month they will run a few projects, weather dependent. He also commented that winter tires are now required on the Malahat and other highways in the province.

7. Other Business

➤ Junior B Hockey Initiative Update and Request (Doug Cripps)

Sgt. Doug Cripps talked about this initiative which was initially presented at the April Commission meeting. The idea came about because of the number of junior hockey players that have been involved in collisions resulting in serious injury or death and the desire to help educate youth in the community on traffic safety. Sgt. Cripps reached out to the President of the Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League, and they are on board with this proposal.

The program would be offered to VIJHL north and south so all teams within the CRD and will be presented by Sgt. Cripps and his partner in Saanich police traffic Sgt. Mark Prill, as well as Adam Defrane representing MADD. Paweena Sukhawathanakul has provided some great information around presenting to the players.

It is planned to meet with the players after practice, provide pizza, and get their attention for about an hour. MADD has agreed to pick up the cost for the pizza. It is proposed to leave the players with a \$50 gift certificate to a local sports store and Sgt. Cripps is asking for \$6500 from the Commission to cover the cost of these. Colleen Woodger has offered her services as well. The

Commission is well represented, and the Saanich Police public relations will be doing some media releases which will be from a CRD Traffic Safety Commission perspective. It is hoped to begin this program in November.

Murray Fyfe suggested that possibly we could look at some of the older hockey players who have graduated going into schools as role models and talking to younger students who are about to start driving, and possibly even have them integrated into the PARTY Program.

MOVED by Steve Martin, **SECONDED** by Frederick Grouzet, that approval be given to providing funding in the amount of \$6500 in support of this road safety education initiative for Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League players. **CARRIED**

8. Member Updates

➤ RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke

- There is a new Responsible Driver Program service provider and a no barriers program to help some people with the cost of the ignition interlock device that is required to be installed in the vehicle of drivers who have received alcohol related driving prohibitions.
- Updates have been made to the impound lot operator program with significant rate increases for towing and storage fees. There are more details on the RoadSafetyBC website.
- The Vision Zero road safety grant program opened in September with a deadline of November 29 to apply. It is aimed at all sorts of community groups with grants up to \$20,000. There is also a separate application stream for First Nations and Indigenous communities. Please spread the word about this.

➤ ICBC – Colleen Woodger

No update

➤ Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker

- Hailey is away in California for special needs car seat training and now will be able to visit hospitals as the only trained car seat educator with special needs training.

➤ Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul

No update

➤ CRD – Jay Douillard

- An additional school has been added to the Ready Set Roll program this year. It is the WSA NEC Leadership School and the tribal school on West Saanich Road. It is the first school they have worked with outside of the public system.
- Their volunteer-based bike count which is done twice a year is currently taking place. E-kick scooters are being counted for the first time. Children are the other component that they count.

➤ Integrated Road Safety Unit – Sgt. Jereme Leslie

No update

➤ Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Myke Labelle

No update

➤ Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk

- The last novice class of the year is wrapping up and they will be completely shut for two months by the end of the month. The calendar is already set for next year. The rider refresher training which the Commission provided funding for is getting very good feedback from students. About 600 students went through this year.

➤ Capital Bike – Doug Baer

No update

➤ Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman

No update

- **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP – S/Sgt. Doug Cripps**
 - Still seeing a lot of impaired driving in Saanich. They have a good group of traffic officers that are targeting this part of the population.
 - Doing MOTI construction project on highway Monday to Friday and a lot of tickets are being issued there.
 - Going into counterattack season for the fall.
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
 - Operators are noticing the amount of speed taking place in the early morning around Colquitz Bridge when people are being clocked at 100 km/h. Roads are getting complicated, especially with the bus lanes. People are making turns from the centre lane and causing a lot of collisions with buses.
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - Owen Page**

No update
- **Island Health – Neil Arason**
 - Vision Zero grant program going on until the end of November.
 - Neil proposed a public awareness initiative working with Chek news to provide information on the traffic related changes that are going on to help people understand the reasons behind them. It was agreed to bring this to the November meeting for discussion.

Action: Add public awareness initiative re traffic related changes to November agenda
- **Working Group for UVic Collaborative for Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
 - The main project they are working on in terms of a new video is around behaviours at intersections. It has been difficult to find the right intersection and to get the necessary permissions for filming. It was decided to look at an alternative and re-create intersection situations and behaviours by using toy cars rather than real cars and kids instead of adults in a big gymnasium. This was inspired by another video from Quebec done with basketball players and smart phones to show you can't do two things at the same time.
- **Vice-Chair Dean Murdock**
 - The road safety action plan is on the agenda for the end of this month at Saanich Council. That will be a major road map on objectives for infrastructure improvement, policy improvement and enforcement on road safety in the community. Once this happens, it will be helpful at some point to have an update from Saanich on what that implementation looks like.
- **Adam Defrane, MADD Canada**
 - Adam is excited to work with Doug Cripps on the VIJHL project.
 - November 1 starts Project Red Ribbon for MADD which is the start of the impaired campaign that runs through the holidays.
 - Recently attended a MADD western regional leadership conference in Vancouver.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 12 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.