

MINUTES
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
April 17, 2014 at noon

Present: Councillor Vic Derman (Chair), Jo-Lee Bertrand, Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Paige MacWilliam, Corey Newcomb, Ray Straatsma and Darrell Wick

Staff: Jim Hemstock, Manager of Capital Works; Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Harold Stanley, Community Planner; Ivan Leung, Engineering Technician; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: David DeShane

Minutes

MOVED by J. Grayson and Seconded by J. Gaylord: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held March 20, 2014, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair stated that he had recently attended the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) convention where he presented information about climate change. He noted that the predictions by computer models are likely too conservative and that the current commitments made by municipalities to reduce greenhouse gasses (GHG) are not aggressive enough. In looking to the future, we need to plan a much different vision with an aggressive mitigation plan because the incremental steps being taken toward reduction of GHG's are not enough.

The Chair also noted that committee member Jo-Lee Bertrand has resigned from the committee due to new work commitments. Ms. Bertrand was thanked for her service and contributions to the committee. The Chair asked that if anyone knows of suitable people interested in serving on the committee to forward this information to him. Additionally, he may approach past member N. Neate about being reappointed, however the new member will ultimately be appointed by Council.

DRAFT SHELBOURNE VALLEY ACTION PLAN

The Manager of Community Planning provided a summary of changes made to the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan based upon feedback from Committees and stakeholder groups. The Plan will be available online the week of May 5th and will hopefully be on the June 9th Council agenda. A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Concern was expressed about the current levels of traffic remaining the same in the Plan and given the need to reduce GHG's this should be looked at. The Regional Growth Strategy/Regional Sustainability Strategy's goal is to reduce/change mode share.
- An evaluation of the Plan's progress/interim improvements (eg, a 5-year review) is not included; staff are currently looking at applicable policies and are working toward including this.

- Concern was expressed about cycling between Pear/Blair Streets. There are not many good alternatives to cycling on Shelbourne Street right now; improvements will be made where possible; much of this is dependent upon re-development. The long-term goal is to have three parallel north-south routes available (Shelbourne, Cedar Hill, greenway).
- Concern was expressed about good cycling areas turning into poor/unfinished cycling areas. Signage regarding passing cyclists/sharing the road would be useful in the interim.
- The Plan is flexible. Construction will likely begin at the North Dairy end of Shelbourne Street.
- With regard to implementation, the intent is to start as soon as possible (likely in a couple of years when sewer/water/road resurfacing occurs on the south side), bus bay removal will be one of the first steps.
- The proposed interim cycle-track will not require road dedication.
- Overall the plan is well done considering the constraints; it does appear to be weak from a cycling perspective.
- The design phase will look at how to mitigate design problems, consider signage and look at laneways/end of laneways.
- Concern was expressed about the project not being implemented; the request for a 5-year review was reiterated.
- The initial design is budgeted for and staff are exploring external funding options. Not including utilities, the budget for implementing improvements to the Shelbourne Street right-of-way (new sidewalks, cycle tracks, boulevard treatment etc.) is approximately \$1M per block or \$20M for all of Shelbourne from North Dairy to the Plan boundary north of Feltham.
- Traffic calming on Cedar Hill Road may be a good idea to encourage bus ridership and to deter people who do not want to drive on Shelbourne Street.
- As a result of meeting with developers and major landowners in the area, several of the pedestrian improvements proposed in the draft Plan have begun to be implemented, including the raised pedestrian crossing at Shelbourne Village Square parking lot.
- Monitoring both the pedestrian and cycling counts before and after the project, as well as the economic impacts to adjacent businesses may be worthwhile projects.

Committee members will review the Plan when it is made available online, with the intent to make a motion to Council at the May 15th meeting.

CYCLING PRIORITIES

Committee members discussed the draft report to Council regarding setting cycling priorities and the following was noted:

- It would be good to mention the overall savings that could occur rather than identifying the overall costs associated with construction of improvements.
- The report doesn't recognize the work that the committee has done to date. It should also include local area connectors.
- Cycling as a mode share in Saanich hasn't changed, which is the reason for the report. Committee wants to see an increase in cyclists.
- It may be of benefit to include the IPCC report on GHG emissions.
- It may be good to recommend that staff look at existing standards.

Members requested a copy of the draft report for the opportunity to make edits.

COOK STREET COMPLETE STREETS

The Engineering Technician advised that since the time that the Committee presented a third option to the Cook Street/Quadra Street intersection, staff went to Boulevard Transportation Group for a peer review and three other options were given. The reason for the variety of options is due to the different cyclist types (beginner to advanced).

The following comments from staff and committee members were noted:

- Staff are looking at connectivity at the intersections and the nearby elementary school.
- Saanich Engineering is committed to conducting traffic counts at the Quadra intersection after construction is complete. It is important for this intersection to be evaluated based on “after construction data”. Given that the current cycling infrastructure is minimal, a significant difference in before-to-after counts is expected.
- Because of the nearby school, considering the perspective of beginner cyclists would be in order.
- Connectivity is important; the intersection needs to be designed to match other projects and paths.

Committee members requested a copy of the report from Boulevard Transportation Group.

BICYCLE LANES SHELBOURNE STREET NORTH OF MOUNT DOUGLAS MARKET

The Manager of Capital Works stated that this is part of the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan (SVAP) and it would make sense to do this project when the Blair Street north project is done. The project still needs to be designed and funded.

There is a gap between the SVAP and the existing bike lanes which end at Arbordale. He suggested that Committee members may wish to recommend that this area be completed prior to the SVAP as an independent project.

*** P. MacWilliam left the meeting at 2:11 p.m. ***

SAANICH BIKE FEST POSTPONEMENT

It was noted that the date was shifted a couple of times but due to scheduling conflicts, a lack of volunteers, and a conflict with the Times Colonist 10K event, the bicycle festival was postponed.

Motion: MOVED by D. Wick and Seconded by J. Bertrand, “That the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommends that in support of Saanich's Climate Action plan 2010 action item S1.17 "Participate in car-free day program for the community", the BiPed committee supports the annual Saanich Cycling Festival in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations.”

CARRIED

Next year's event date will be established in coordination with the Saanich Community Events Planner and, for the festival site, the University of Victoria.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, May 15, 2014

Councillor Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary