

MINUTES
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 1

Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 11:45 a.m.

Present: Councillor Vic Derman (Chair), Dan Casey (12:00 p.m.), Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Rebecca Mersereau, Corey Newcomb, Ray Straatsma (12:05 p.m.), Darrell Wick

Staff: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Steve Holroyd, Engineering Planner/Designer; Gary Darrach, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Troy McKay, Engineering Technologist; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner; Police Sgt. Alan Gurzinski; Police Sgt. Andy Stuart; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Absent: David DeShane

Guest: Sarah Webb, CRD Regional Planning

Minutes

MOVED by R. Mersereau and Seconded by J. Grayson: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held September 17, 2015, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair stated:

- Advisory committee positions are being advertised; please let the Senior Committee Clerk know if you wish to be re-appointed. Changing the meeting times to end of day (eg. 4:30 p.m.) is being investigated, in order to make it easier to members to attend meetings.
- Staff have provided options to either provide better infrastructure along the Shelbourne Corridor or to manage the corridor with lane restrictions. This second option is favoured by most. Bicycle lanes help to protect pedestrians and the vision needs to change to make things less autocentric. He has requested that the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan come back to BiPed committee.

S. Webb, CRD Regional Planning, was present to obtain the names of people who wish to provide further input on the CRD Wayfinding Guidelines. This item needs to be moved on immediately. D. Wick and Councillor Derman will meet with Ms. Webb and staff in this regard.

Ms. Webb also noted that the Regional Trails Management Plan will be going to the CRD Board as a draft and will be referred to all 13 municipalities. Councillor Derman stated if any committee members wish to participate in the CRD Board meeting, to register to speak as soon as possible.

UPTOWN/DOUGLAS CORRIDOR UPDATE

The Senior Planner, Community Planning, provided a background of the Uptown/Douglas Corridor Plan and noted the Terms of Reference (available online) were approved by Council in September. The following was noted:

- The City of Victoria is doing a similar plan and Saanich will be working with them.
- With the jurisdictional areas and transportation issues, staff will also be working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as BC Transit and the CRD.
- A map of the plan area was presented. This is a 20-30 year land use plan that is not large in area but a big mix of commercial, industrial and residential properties.
- Six key themes guide the plan, and there are ten plan objectives, some of which include: creating a more vibrant and walkable urban centre; having a connected, sustainable and balanced transportation network that encourages more walking, cycling and transit use; enhancing the network of parks, open spaces and culture/community facilities; restoring and enhancing key environmental assets; and, promoting green buildings/renewable energy.
- A consultant will be hired to work with staff and the public to develop a vision and community plan that will guide development for Uptown major centre, the Douglas corridor and surrounding area.
- An advisory committee will be established and will be comprised of about 16 individuals that broadly represent the area demographic and interests. Their role will be to advise on public engagement techniques to ensure outreach is effectively undertaken in the community; promote the project and public engagement opportunities within the community; and, provide feedback to staff on plan concepts and content.

Committee comments and responses to committee questions were noted as follows:

- There will be a mid-process check-in with Council for the Uptown/Douglas Street process.
- There may be opportunity for significant grants for this project.
- Victoria is a year and a half into this project already; Saanich has been working with Victoria for about six months and will also work with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and BC Transit.
- There is opportunity to do really great things in this area (similar to False Creek).
- Councillor Derman will advocate an ambitious partnership with the City of Victoria.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Director of Engineering and the Engineering Technologist were present to discuss the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Plan. The following comments from staff and committee members were noted:

- The purpose and related policies and plans were described as were the objectives for this 25 year plan.
- A hierarchy was shown which illustrates how the plan fits in with Saanich, the surrounding municipalities and the regional district.
- The seven plan objectives were described.
- A suggestion was made to do an analysis of existing facilities.
- This plan will need to mesh with others, including the Uptown Douglas Street Corridor Plan, the CRD Master Plan and BC Transit's plans.
- There is a general sense of where this is going however input is needed; how do we determine network priorities; policy work development, etc.
- The technical advisory committee and stakeholder groups are to be included; a vast representation is needed and all Community Associations are involved. There will be lots of public engagement.

- It will be very important to educate people on existing policies; many people do not know what the Official Community Plan is and people need to be able to make informed decisions.
- The goal should be to ensure that priority modes have no competitive disadvantage.
- So much of active transportation hinges on land use and local destinations; communities should be created within walking distance to local destinations.
- Prioritizing projects within the set budget is important. If work is planned well, then grants may be available.
- A suggestion was made to have regular features in the Saanich News to educate people and inform of upcoming projects.
- It would be good to show what is being done elsewhere in North America.
- The CRD will support Saanich by providing data/stats and delivering information.
- It was suggested that the Saanich Emergency Program be added to the stakeholder group.
- It would be helpful to survey the public to find out what would get them out cycling more.

SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL

The Engineering Technologist provided information on the Active and Safe Routes to School project which is a joint venture between Saanich and ICBC with a goal to establish the safest routes to schools. Twelve schools were completed in the past; the program restarted in 2015 with three elementary and two middle schools selected based on needs, population density, proximity to other schools and a desire to participate.

Staff will conduct surveys to obtain baseline data and will have to find out what is considered safe. The hope is to create maps to post in the school to show the best routes for safe travel and will have tips to help guide those travelling to school.

This project will also tie into decisions on infrastructure priorities and the Active Transportation Plan.

GLANFORD/MANN INTERSECTION UPGRADE

The Engineering Planner/Designer advised that Engineering was not successful in obtaining a grant for this project, and it is now out to tender. ICBC did a road safety audit and the design was slightly modified based on their comments. The goal is to improve safety and to slow traffic down. Bicycle lanes are in the 5-year plan to extend near the Royal Oak McDonalds. The following comments were noted:

- Signage may need to be put in for cyclists turning onto Mann Avenue. Wayfinding signage for all directions was suggested.
- The question was asked whether this intersection would be a candidate for an advance cyclist lane at Mann Avenue.
- Sharrows and conflict paint should be used to separate cycling and traffic lanes.
- The suggestion was made to have a bike box. A temporary traffic signal will be installed to control traffic.
- In response to a question about having a pass-through between Glanford Avenue and Fernie Road, it was noted that this is part of the West Saanich Road Streetscaping Plan.
- There may be lanes that go down Glanford toward Enterprise Crescent in the next six to seven years.
- The Tender closes next week, then this will go to Council for approval and it is hoped that work will start in mid-January. Completion date goal is May 31, 2016.

- Committee would like staff to look at wayfinding signs, sharrows, an advance green light for cyclists, and a possible path behind Fernie Road and Glanford Avenue.

The Engineering Technologist provided an explanation how signal boxes are calibrated. Committee members mentioned that some signal boxes are not working within the municipality and they were asked to send this information to Engineering staff via email.

BORDEN BIKE LANES – MCKENZIE TO LOCHSIDE TRAIL AT CEDAR HILL X ROAD

The Engineering Planner/Designer advised that Engineering was successful in obtaining a \$140,000 grant for this project and it needs to be completed by July 2016. Comments from staff and committee members noted:

- A bi-directional cycle track will provide connection to the Lochside Trail. This will provide a higher level of security than conventional bike lanes.
- The cycle track will be physically separated to allow bike movement in both directions on one side of the road.
- Conflict paint will increase the visibility of the lanes for both vehicles and pedestrians.
- Raised crosswalks will help calm traffic. Traffic control will change with signs to indicate cars must yield to pedestrians and cyclists.
- A question was raised about sweeping the trail to keep debris off; staff will let Public Works know of this concern.
- The intent is to make the trail four metres wide; committee members suggested that the uphill lane should be a little wider in order to allow for passing.
- Staff would like to discourage downhill cyclists from speeding as it is unsafe.
- The future use of the trail up McKenzie Avenue beside the school was described.
- The top of the hill needs painting (at Cedar Hill Cross Road and McKenzie Avenue).
- Staff will meet with the Community Associations in the area and proceed with the detailed design.
- Changes at Cedar Hill Cross Road, Lochside Drive and Borden Street were described. There are many large vehicles in the area with Don Mann and the Saanich Yard being nearby.
- People need to be educated regarding cycling in this area.

A plan needs to be made regarding the creek in the area. Overall committee members were satisfied with the design that was presented.

GALLOPING GOOSE CONNECTION WITH CAREY/RAVINE INTERSECTION

The Engineering Planner/Designer provided information on the Uptown Development and upcoming work near the Carey/Ravine intersection. A copy of the approved drawings for Whole Foods was shown and described. The following was noted:

- There will be designated pedestrian and bike crossings on Ravine Way to head onto Carey Road.
- The Whole Foods entrance will have a driveway with a ramp and bike parking facilities.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is working on the Douglas Street bus lanes. A concept has been prepared that will create a transit facility to work with the upcoming dedicated bus lanes on Douglas Street. The proposal extends the two-way cycling facility south on Carey Road.
- There is an unofficial trail between the Galloping Goose trail and Carey Road that cyclists use; it was suggested that the proposed bike lanes from the trail onto Carey Road will put cyclists at a disadvantage compared to the existing unofficial trail
- A yield sign is needed for cyclists riding onto the trail.

- Staff will meet with CRD Parks, Uptown, and Whole Foods next month to make sure everyone is satisfied with the current plan.
- No centre line is planned for the trail at this time. Arrows/symbols will be painted to indicate that the trail is bi-directional.
- The question was raised whether there is a program to regularly repaint bicycle symbols in the municipality.

ROUNDTABLE

- Committee members asked for an update on the Tillicum Road project. Staff noted that the contractor will provide an updated schedule and the project is supposed to be done by mid-November.
- It was noted that Biketoria event will be held this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at the Victoria Conference Centre.
- A temporary bicycle lane will be placed in the Cook Street/Dallas Road area as a three-hour test.
- A walk the talk event will be held at the Open Space Gallery on November 4, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, November 19, 2015 at noon.

Councillor Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary