

MINUTES
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday November 16, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Atwell (Chair), Brian Collier, Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Rebecca Mersereau, Alex Nagelbach, Barb Sharpe, Anne Topp, and Darrell Wick

Staff: Troy McKay Acting Manager of Transportation and Development; Sandra Liddell, Engineering Technician; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Minutes

MOVED by B. Collier and Seconded by R. Mersereau: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held October 19, 2017, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Mayor stated that this will be his last meeting as committee Chair and he will do his best to appoint a Chair that is interested in, and has experience with, the mandate of this committee.

FINNERTY ROAD WALKING, CYCLING UPGRADES CONCEPT

The Acting Manager of Transportation and Development and the Engineering Technician were present to describe upgrades to Finnerty Road between Arbutus Road and McKenzie Avenue. The following was noted:

- The proposed project has a protected bi-directional track on the south side of Finnerty Road between Edgelow Street and McKenzie Avenue.
- A protected multi-use pathway will be placed on the south side of Finnerty Road between Edgelow Street and Arbutus Road.
- Green conflict paint will be in areas of possible conflict.
- New sidewalks will fill in the gaps along the north side of Finnerty Road.
- This plan will result in 8-12 trees being removed instead of about 30 trees.
- The goal is to go to Tender in spring of 2018, construct during the summer, and complete in late 2018 or early 2019.

Committee members commented and asked questions of staff. The following was noted:

- Questions were raised about how cyclists will enter onto the bi-directional path and also how to use the roundabout. Staff described options for both scenarios.
- There is no policy on two-way lanes at this time but it is noted in the draft Active Transportation Plan. Some roads are designated as part of the bike network and should be designed to be suitable for users of all ages and all abilities.
- Having uni-directional pathways on both sides of Finnerty Road would result in the loss of far more trees and would be over budget.
- Some of the committee members felt bi-directional lanes are not the most popular choice for cyclists.
- It was suggested that having two different types of designs on the same street could be confusing.
- Regular users will be University and middle school students. About 120 people use this route daily. The daycare in the area also uses the sidewalks regularly.
- The route is designed so that street sweepers can clean the pathways.
- Finnerty Road is considered a spine and is on the proposed bicycle network. It needs to be appropriate for all ages and abilities.

- Concern for consistency was expressed. Cyclists need to be able to ride a pathway without having to think about the next section that may have different treatment.
- Streets differ in width and use; unfinished roads with no curbs are on the bike network. Staff are aiming to use consistent standards for pathways.
- The project is partially funded by the Gas Tax fund.
- A suggestion was made that the Active Transportation Plan reference 'best practices' for the cycling network, and also have a statement that when replacing pipes the municipality will endeavour to replace mobility facilities at the same time.
- Question was raised about locating the bi-directional track on the opposite side of the road. Staff noted that additional vehicle crossings are a potential safety issue and outlined a variety of reasons why the south side was chosen.

FOWLER ROAD NEW SIDEWALK

It was noted that the section of Fowler Road near Cordova Bay Road has significant cyclist use. Lochside trail is not paved here and there are sidewalks that could have been bicycle lanes. The area between the paved roadway and sidewalk has a dangerous low curb which prevents cyclists from moving off the roadway safely.

The Acting Manager of Transportation and Development noted that some broken concrete was replaced in the area and the curbs were to only be aprons at driveways but the entire strip was paved. Maintenance has been notified that there is a safety issue with the lip. Staff will forward information to this committee once a solution is presented.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

Examples of vegetation encroachment on many Saanich sidewalks were given. The question was raised how this is addressed and whether there is still a process to maintain catch basins and curbs. Concern was expressed about the impact on the cement, as well as potential safety issues for people with mobility issues.

The Chair noted that the size of Saanich, capacity of staff, and budget, are all issues and it would take years to do all the weeding. Staff members request annual funding to address these issues and Council denies the funds as they struggle with the costs of staffing.

**** B. Sharpe left the meeting at 5:10 pm. ****

A suggestion was made that Saanich could send out notices asking the public to assist when they see overgrown sidewalks. The question was raised about using chemicals as a solution, but chemicals are only used on invasive species or on vegetation that affects sightlines. It was noted that new sidewalks are poured monolithically rather than in two sections in order to reduce vegetation overgrowth.

Motion: MOVED by R. Mersereau and Seconded by A. Topp, "That the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee is concerned about the deteriorating conditions and usability of existing sidewalk infrastructure from vegetation overgrowth and requests that Council ask staff to provide options to manage this issue."

CARRIED

SIDEWALKS ON JUDAH STREET

In response to an inquiry, staff noted that the Judah Street improvements did not come before the committee. Projects that are brought forward to the committee tend to be larger and more impactful. The work done on Judah Street was an action item as a result of The Active and Safe Routes to School program. It was also noted that there was an ICBC grant for a crosswalk at Judah Street and Bremerton Street.

RESIDENTIAL STREETS (continued discussion from October meeting)

It was noted that residential street use is of concern and it is felt that streets should be designed for use by all. Calm residential streets results in good people spaces, and if streets are properly calmed then there is less need for separate bicycle lanes.

It was suggested that secondary suites are creating an excess of parked cars on streets and this will need to be addressed at some point. Concern was expressed that the Active Transportation Plan may not properly address the need for different road treatments in residential areas compared to centres/villages. It was also noted that residential areas may increase in density due to more secondary and garden suites, and this issue will increase the need for more bike lanes.

The Acting Manager of Transportation and Development stated for the motion from the previous meeting has been added as an action in the Active Transportation Plan.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN COMMITTEE

It was noted that on page 44 of the draft Active Transportation Plan there is a recommendation to create an Active Transportation Committee. Concern was expressed that this proposed committee plus the BiPed committee would result in duplication of roles. The Acting Manager of Transportation and Development advised that that the intention is not to replace BiPed, but perhaps enhance the existing committee roles. The Chair noted that Council will review the Terms of Reference and it is possible that a sub-committee of BiPed could be struck.

U-BICYCLE

The U-bicycle sharing program services the City of Victoria and it would be great to see this expanded into Saanich. The question was raised about who to contact and how to go about inviting the service to the municipality. The program is successful in the City of Victoria; they currently have 150 bikes and want to add 200 more.

The Acting Manager of Transportation and Development stated that the company would need a business licence, and Bylaw's would have to be reviewed to ensure compliance.

Motion: MOVED by R. Mersereau and Seconded by D. Wick, "That the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee supports the expansion of U-bicycle bike share program and recommends that Council write to U-bicycle to inquire if they are interested in making an application to operate in the District of Saanich."

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Mayor Atwell, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary