

MINUTES
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
May 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Vic Derman (Chair), Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Rebecca Mersereau, Alex Nagelbach, Anne Topp

Staff: Catherine Mohoruk, Manager of Transportation & Development; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Dan Casey, Suzan Jennings, Darrell Wick

Guest: Sarah Webb, Active Transportation Manager, Capital Regional District

Minutes

MOVED by J. Grayson and Seconded by A. Topp: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held April 21, 2016, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The following was noted:

- The BiPed recommendation that Mr. Wickson's option and other options be considered and evaluated as those options presented by the Ministry itself was supported by Council, as was a recommendation from the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee.
- Despite comments received against, the Ministry responded that it is going ahead with the cloverleaf design.
- Council has supported in principle, the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation plan. Staff are to consider the comments provided by Council and there will be a committee struck for this plan

The Manager of Transportation and Development clarified that there will be a project advisory committee for the Active Transportation Plan and she explained their role. This committee will be provided with updates 2-3 times during the process. The Chair stated that quarterly reports would be preferred.

CRD ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Sarah Webb, CRD Active Transportation Manager, provided an overview of the Regional Planning Department, and provided some general updates. The following was noted:

- In May a bicycle count was done at about 80 stations (24 stations in Saanich). The data will be shared in a couple weeks.
- A transportation data review is underway and the census data will be available in November 2017.
- CRD has launched "People Power, the Active Transportation & Healthy Communities Program" to encourage residents to travel without automobiles. The program offers a unique approach to integrate cycling, walking, rolling and public transit into daily life.
- Up to 30 schools will be supported via the "Active & Safe Routes to School Project" in the 2016/2017 academic year. High schools have been added to the project.

In response to comments, Ms. Webb stated:

- CRD does coordinate with municipalities and with BC Transit, gathering information on upcoming projects. CRD has a mandate to get projects on a multi-modal network, and applies for funding in this regard. Each municipality has very different needs (eg. North Saanich has more multi-use trails versus Langford's major roadways).
- Each year municipal updates are received about new bicycle lanes and trails and the CRD looks at connectivity opportunities when this information is received.
- The CRD Master Plan will next be updated in 2018 and Saanich's Active Transportation Plan will be incorporated into the Master Plan at this time.
- Bicycle count data will be updated and downloadable from the CRD website. Some stations are brand new; there will be some historical data and some new data.

CRD UPDATE – PAVING OF LOCHSIDE TRAIL THROUGH BLENKINSOP VALLEY AND THE HUNT-MARTINDALE VALLEY

Ms. Webb noted the following:

- In June 2016, CRD Regional Parks committee will receive a public participation summary report. Over the summer and early fall, comments on the Draft Regional Trails Management Plan (RTMP) will be reviewed.
- The suggestion by BiPed committee to have a separate trail was received. CRD Staff were asked to look at options to keep the equine community on the trail on the Lochside Trail between Island View Road and the Blenkinsop greenway. A balanced multi-modal use trail is the directive.
- In the 4th quarter of this year, the recommended RTMP will be given to the CRD Parks Committee and CRD Board for review and approval.

In response to questions, Ms. Webb stated:

- They are not actively monitoring use of the trail. There will be enhanced data collection done this summer for all modes of travel.
- The surface of the trestles and the gravel and dust in some areas are identified in the RTMP. The top priorities over the next ten years are itemized in the Plan and when adopted, an annual budget will be made in order to address areas of concern.
- Trestle paving and pothole repair are on the plan but there is no specific timeline. The 2017 Lochside trail upgrades planned will be sent to this committee for information.

Shifting the topic to the McKenzie interchange, Ms. Webb and committee members stated:

- CRD has provided Wayfinding guidelines to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure; it is up to the Ministry to use the guidelines.
- There is frustration surrounding the McKenzie interchange plan in terms of Active Transportation and design (e.g. no park and ride facility was included in the plan). It was noted that the CRD has a major water main in that area.
- There is a triangle-shaped parcel of land at McKenzie and Burnside what is owned by the Ministry that may be usable.
- Transit is improved but some cyclist options are worse.

TILLICUM / GLANFORD COMMITTEE RESPONSE

Councillor Derman circulated his draft of compiled committee comments; there are a few more to add. A final version will be circulated at a future meeting. The intent is to provide the comments to staff and maybe to Council if this committee wishes.

UPDATE – ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Manager of Transportation and Development reported that Council has approved, in principle, the Terms of Reference. Ideas will be incorporated into the document and the next RFP will be to hire a consultant in the early summer. Staff will provide updates to advisory committees; the next one being likely in the fall 2016.

MCKENZIE / HIGHWAY NO. 1 INTERCHANGE – UPDATE; PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST CONSIDERATIONS WITHIN THE PROPOSED MCKENZIE / TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE

Some committee members reported that they attended an open house hosted by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on May 18th and concern was expressed about busses driving on the shoulders of the highway which will affect the safety of cyclists who might want to travel on the shoulders of the highway. The Manager of Transportation and Development responded to questions/comments of committee members and the following was noted:

- The plan calls for bus shoulder lanes along the highway, from Burnside to west of the new interchange – this will move buses through the interchange area quickly like a long bus queue jumper.
- There are bus shoulder lanes provided in other highway locations under provincial jurisdiction.
- It is not clear on the provincial graphics handed out at the open house the extent of the bus shoulder lanes going out of town; it is difficult to see on the graphics where the transitions will occur.
- The highway road section will be lower than the current road elevation and there will be some walled sections adjacent to the highway ramps through the interchange.

Committee went on to note:

- The grades on the new Galloping Goose facility appear to be between 2 – 4 %.
- A request was made by the GVCC to the Ministry for a cycle track at Admirals Road, and also a cycle track would be desirable north of McKenzie Avenue continuing to the structure that goes to Interurban Road (it is a Ministry road up until Rainbow Street). The Ministry has said these would be Saanich projects. Staff will review the GVCC request and will discuss further with Ministry project staff.
- Separated bike facilities on Admirals Road would be nice to access the pedestrian/cycling highway overpass (not on the Goose trail).
- The interchange is a net loss for school kids who will have to travel to the east and then travel back to the west (detour) to Colquitz. Concern was expressed that school children will cross the highway to avoid the extra travel distance it will take to use the new pedestrian overpass.
- The detailed design is not very detailed and it is very difficult to provide feedback to the Province. Comments are being received by the Ministry until June 15, 2016.
- Separation from traffic is needed on Admirals Road near the partial cloverleaf section; there is no paint or cycling signs planned on McKenzie or Admirals shoulder bike lanes due to liability concerns by the Ministry.
- The committee are only providing feedback to Saanich Council and not to the Ministry; but it is unlikely that the Ministry will make any adjustments that are suggested.
- Concern was expressed that this design has made pedestrians and cyclists second class citizens; it is designed for moving cars/trucks only without consideration of other transportation modes.

- Individuals are encouraged to provide input to the Ministry before June 15th; this committee will endeavour to send further comments to Council in hopes that they are sent to the Ministry before this date or convey to the Ministry at the next staff level meeting.

ADVANCE LEFT-TURN ARROW FROM BOLESKINE ROAD (EAST BOUND) TO TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY (NORTH BOUND)

Comments on the above subject were noted as follows:

- A request was received for an intersection realignment.
- An advance left is needed at Boleskine Road turning onto Highway No. 1 (Provincial intersection).
- This area is part of the Douglas Street Corridor Plan.
- Work will be done after the McKenzie Interchange (after 2018).
- MOTI is weak with urban transportation planning and stakeholder consultation.

SHOULDER BIKE LANE WEST SIDE OF TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY (SOUTH BOUND) FROM CULDUTHEL ROAD TO BOLESKINE ROAD

A question was raised about the lack of a bicycle lane on the west side of Hwy No. 1 from Cultuthel Road to Boleskine Road; it was noted that this is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

BIKETORIA

- Work on Pandora Avenue is to start next month.
- A description was given of buffer bike lanes planned for downtown (Johnson Street, Wharf Street, Cook Street, Fort Street, Government Street).
- The most contentious areas were pushed to the end.
- Barriers will be the solar concrete bollard type.
- A new Douglas/Yates Street bicycle parking facility has opened recently.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, June 23, 2016

Councillor Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary