

MINUTES
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday November 28, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Brian Collier, Eric Doherty, Norman Gidney, Susan Kerr, Erin Prescott, Darrell Wick, Jade Yehia (non-voting liaison), Philippe Janicki (non-voting liaison)

Staff: Troy McKay, Manager, Transportation & Development Services; David Williams, Engineering Supervisor; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Pat Danforth, Alex Nagelbach

The Chair welcomed members and reported that Council has increased the committee membership from 9 to 11, and she hopes that everyone re-applied to serve again next year.

Minutes

MOVED by B. Collier and Seconded by S. Kerr: “That the Minutes of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held October 24, 2019, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ATP) REPORT CARD – FINAL DOCUMENT

The Manager of Transportation and Development Services reported that the ATP information will be posted to the Saanich website late this year and invited members to send comments to him directly. It was noted that data items will be reported on next year. Committee asked questions and provided comments, and the following was noted:

- Staff will continue to build on this document and include trends as data is collected.
- Suggestion to add information including washroom locations and transit shelters (both accessible and not) to the back of the document.
- Suggestion to include information on how many students are driven to schools; could highlight one school (or area). It was noted it may be challenging to get accurate data however census data could be obtained and filters for the walk and wheel or ready, set, stroll programs could be used.
- The Healthy Schools BC coordinator may be able to provide data.
- Stats/information on before the plan was built and then after would be useful.
- Is there any value in splitting different mode types (eg. walking, cycling, and transit)
- Data regarding collisions refers to collisions with vehicles, not people who fell off bicycles. This information comes from ICBC.
- The target for collisions with walkers and cyclists should be zero. Suggestion that a percentage reduction might be better (eg. 10% reduction in collisions). Staff will look into this.

MOTION

MOVED by B. Collier and Seconded by S. Kerr, “The Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that the revised Active Transportation Plan Report Card be published on the Saanich website and provided to Council and Saanich MLA, Lana Popham, for information.”

CARRIED

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Engineering Supervisor provided information regarding safe routes to school and the CRD's 'Ready, Set, Roll' program that has been running since 2015. Saanich is the biggest funder of the program as there are 39 schools including private, public and Catholic schools within Saanich. The goal is to have the program rotate through all schools every four years, however some schools are not able to participate due to staffing changes and transition years. Saanich is updating the Local Area Plans (LAP) and is trying to align the school updates with the LAP updates. Next year Quadra/North Quadra area schools will be invited to participate in the program. Catchments are so big sometimes for non-public schools that students do not walk or cycle.

*** N. Gidney arrived at 4:25 pm ***

The Engineering Supervisor reported on the recent work done in the municipality (eg. crosswalks, sidewalks, time restricted parking in some areas, traffic signal timing updates). At Braefoot/Cedar Hill X Road, and at Quadra Street/Reynolds Road the walk signal turns on before the car signals so that pedestrians can get ahead of the traffic. Upcoming work includes many more sidewalks, cycling route improvements, rebuilding some crosswalks, and more traffic signal timing updates.

Committee asked questions and provided comments; the following was noted:

- Some schools do have a walking school bus program led by school administrators.
- There is no clear leader on walking school bus programs, but Saanich can help with signage and timed parking restrictions to make walking and riding to school safer.
- Staff have created an annual update of improvements done that will be sent to each school and PAC community. This will need to be forwarded to parents.
- Suggestion made that there should be something in school curriculums on how to safely cycle. Staff noted that some schools offer cycling safety programs.
- The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and the Bike to Work Week Society have amalgamated and are keen on doing more school courses for the grade six level.
- Hopefully the newly merged society will push the province for some funding for educational courses for children.

LIGHTING PILOT

The crosswalk at Blenkinsop Road/Judge Place will be done by end of March 2020. There is a dark and narrow trail there that is a good candidate for a lighting pilot because services are being installed for the crosswalk. The pilot could be from Judge Place to Fairlane Terrace and up to Persimmon Drive. Lit bollards set back away from the trail would likely be installed.

A comment was made that the path is difficult to see and it was suggested that trail signage be installed on the chain link fence to mark the entrance.

HOSPITAL CONNECTOR

The Manager of Transportation and Development Services reported that he spoke with the City of Victoria, and they will improve connections between north/south from Irving and Madison to Lee Avenue and east/west via Haultain Street and Richmond Road. Comments noted:

- The connection that runs through the parking lot is a challenge.
- Trent Street could be a good candidate for a bike lane.

- Commuting from Dean Avenue to the Royal Jubilee Hospital is not good.
- The trail between Adanac Street and Haultain Street is very narrow.

Staff to have another conversation with City of Victoria.

VISION ZERO

The Manager of Transportation and Development Services provided information and responded to questions as noted:

- Saanich does not have a vision zero program, but instead has related targets, goals and activities with the broad goal of vision zero.
- ICBC partners with and provides some funding to Saanich on some projects.

*** B. Collier left the meeting at 4:55 pm ***

- Federal funding is usually based on a 1/3 partnership and is difficult to obtain.
- Provincially, Bike BC was rebranded to be within their Active Transportation Plan.

The Chair noted that she attended an age friendly presentation by Canadian Institutes of Health Research and noted the potential funding available (information can be found at Healthycitiesresearch.ca).

WOONERF (SHARED STREETS) TRIAL

Committee discussed criteria and street candidates for a woonerf trial. The following was noted:

- Good criteria exists on Churchill Drive to the top of Mount Doug as it has a good blend of walkers, dogs, cars, people who use mobility aids.
- Criteria should include presence of children and vulnerable people, eg: people that use playground/school areas.
- Criteria could include narrow streets that are one lane with higher density and no street parking.
- If streets are wider, could install barriers (eg. trees) alternating up the street.
- Community support needs to be part of the criteria.
- Good criteria exists on Penrhyn Street off Cadboro Bay Road; the area is multi-use with a lot of activity and they are doing the Local Area Planning process.

The Manager of Transportation and Development Services noted that the community has a vision for Penrhyn Street and that changes could be made mid-block to the end of the street. He also noted that Camelot Street could be a possibility as it is near a network with high pedestrian and cyclist counts, has high housing in the area and many people going to the village or school. Frank Hobbs Elementary school has challenges with the amount of pick up/drop off traffic on Camelot Street. Staff could remove the access to the pick-up/drop off area and remove the side parking and extend the sidewalk across the intersection to deter parents driving their cars into the area. The downside is the street is a little removed but local users would notice the change.

In reply to a comment that this solution is more of an Active Transportation Plan traffic calming measure as opposed to a woonerf, the Manager of Transportation and Development Services stated he will take the criteria and look at other neighbourhoods to potentially have a woonerf street. The Chair suggested that staff investigate the Gorge/Tillicum area for potential.

ROUNDTABLE

Bicycle Festival

- The Chair noted that the public seem to want Bike Fest to proceed down Shelbourne Street again like it did in the past. She asked members to think about themes (in particular around youth) for the festival. Ideas could include BMX biking, cargo/utility bikes, having a cycling zoo where people can try different bikes, obstacle course.

Other Festival

- Suggestion made that a mobility festival could be held. This could celebrate the community and mobility and be held on a non-residential street such as Oak Street.
 - The Motor Vehicle Act is being amended to allow for scooters on bike routes.
 - Driver/operator training for scooters could be promoted.
 - Focus could be on e-scooters and power chairs.
 - It would be good to find out if the AAA routes are really AAA for scooter use.

Manager of Transportation and Development Services reported that Engineering and Planning departments have discussed holding a weekend festival with street vendors, connecting Mayfair to Uptown.

Traffic calming

- Could look at Oak Street for trial woonerf. Short Street has good density.

Planning

- Need to look at changing land use.
- Need more villages to decrease distances travelled.
- Active Transportation needs to be made more convenient.
- Trying to retrofit existing land use does not always work.
- Request was made to have Planning staff come to the committee to talk about Local Area Plan changes.
- Suggestion that Health Impact Assessments also be looked at when doing Local Area Planning.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary