

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall in Council Chambers
Thursday August 27, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.**

Present: **In Person:**
Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Brian Collier, Norman Gidney, Philippe Janicki,
Robert McLeod, Owen Petersen (Youth Member)

Via Teleconference:
Pat Danforth, Susan Kerr, Erin Prescott

Staff: Troy McKay, Manager, Transportation & Development Services; Cameron Scott,
Manager of Community Planning; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability;
Alanna McDonagh, Community Planning; Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk; and
Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk Assistant

Regrets: Karen Laberee

Guests: Lisa Totter, Bronson Bullivant and Erin Sparks, Transit Planners, BC Transit

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOVED by B. Collier and Seconded by N. Gidney: “That the Minutes of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held February 27, 2020 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

Note: The agenda for the meeting was revised to add an additional item – “Management of District–owned Public EV Charging Stations”.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS

The Chair welcomed all members and advised of participation both in person and via teleconference due to COVID-19 safety precautions. The following comments were noted:

- The Committee should consider public art options for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) barrier wall at the McKenzie interchange.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the timeline of some projects, but work on projects within the budget including a number of cycling routes, safe routes to school and transit stops are ongoing.
- In June, Council approved the following resolution based on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommendation: “That Council write a letter to Chief Medical Health Officer to support My Health My Community survey for the South Island, which supports Saanich’s Active Transportation Plan, Action 3B.2: Work with partners to develop and deliver materials outlining the health benefits of walking and cycling.” A response to that letter has not yet been received.

BC TRANSIT ROUTE CHANGES

Lisa Totter and Erin Sparks presented information on the Broadmead/Cordova Bay Local Area Transit Plan (LATP) route updates and the following was highlighted:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected ridership in the Capital Regional District (CRD).
- Fare collection and front door loading have resumed; safety measures are in place.
- Transit aims to support economic recovery and address community challenges.
- The LATP defines the service and infrastructure strategies and priorities. Community engagement on LATP included open houses, workshops, and online surveys.
- Route 6 will be simplified by removing 6A and 6B to improve route clarity. The simplified Route 6 will have improved frequency and span.
- Route 32 will remain the same, Route 34 will be added, and Route 35 will be expanded.
- A review of capacity at the Royal Oak Exchange will also be a priority.
- Next steps will be the presentation of LATP to Victoria Regional Transit Commission in November for endorsement, followed by integration into service planning.

In response to questions from the Chair and committee, the following was noted:

- New bus stops will be strategically introduced in areas that align with connections to regional trails and parks, with a focus on safety and pedestrian locations.
- Saanich staff will work with BC Transit to ensure curbs and accessible loading infrastructure will be implemented where possible during the design phase.
- All expansions were deferred at the beginning of the pandemic to reevaluate priorities.
- BC Transit is reviewing options to make bus route numbers easier to differentiate.
- BC Transit has acquired land in View Royal for a new facility that will allow an expansion of services, including additional Handi-Dart resources.
- Broadmead Area Residents Association (BARA) has been involved in community consultation.
- More growth is needed through the region including rapid bus and expanded services.

MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT-OWNED PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS

Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability provided an overview of the District of Saanich's electric mobility work, including the proposed expansion of District-owned public Electric Vehicle charging stations and proposed user fees. The following was highlighted:

- The Climate Plan includes a focus on mobility, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions via active transportation, transit improvements, and transitioning to electric vehicles (EV).
- EV Charging Infrastructure Requirements Bylaws were approved by Council August 10, 2020 and are in effect as of September 1, 2020.
- Access to charging across the region is essential to support the transition to EV.
- Saanich currently has 12 public Level 2 EV charging stations.
- 20 new public Level 2 charging stations will be installed by the end of 2021.
- Funding for new chargers will be provided by the Federal Government Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program and Council Strategic Initiatives Contingency Fund.

- A proposed user fee and time limit, to come into effect January 1, 2021 will be presented to Council for approval in September, 2020:
 - Proposed user fee of \$1/hour, consistent with Esquimalt & Victoria and comparable to other BC municipalities,
 - Recommended in CRD EV + E-bike Infrastructure report,
 - Review after 1 year,
 - Revenue used to offset costs of operating charging stations,
 - Fees can be paid via card or app.
- Management Approach of charging stations: Time Limits
 - Existing:
 - 3-hour time limit currently in place but not enforced.
 - Proposed:
 - 3-hour time limit during the day/operating hours,
 - Enforced with \$30 fine,
 - \$30 fine also applies to parking non-EV in EV Parking Space.
- New management plan in place for administration of EV charging stations.

*** D. Wick entered the meeting at 5:03 p.m. ***

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

- E-Bicycle charging will be addressed in an upcoming E-mobility Strategy Report.
- Provincial rebates are available and information is available on the Saanich website.
- The District is working with BC Hydro to develop a standard template for a Feasibility Study for EV charging stations to be installed in existing multi-unit residential buildings.
- Accessibility will be taken into consideration during the design phase of the new stations.
- The additional 20 public charging station expansion will address the short and medium term needs for EV charging stations. Locations for private charging stations are being explored with partners regionally and provincially.
- Proposed charges encourage balance between offsetting expenses and maintaining an affordable rate to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

BICYCLE PARKING GUIDELINES/STANDARDS – UPTOWN DOUGLAS CORRIDOR AREA PLAN

Alanna McDonagh, Planner (Community Planning) presented key active transportation highlights of the Uptown-Douglas Corridor Area Plan (UDC). The following was noted:

- Council has requested a supplemental report on the UDC to capture feedback and recommendations from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, along with feedback from other committees.
- A fundamental goal of the UDC is to create a connected and sustainable balanced mobility network with convenient and safe connections for all modes of transportation.
- Key Plan Directions:
 - Putting pedestrians first, transforming Oak Street,
 - Creating a multi-modal transit hub, accelerating rapid transit,
 - Creating a network of parks, plazas and public spaces, converting grey to green,
 - Residential growth and conserving light industrial.

- The UDC Land Use Framework designates neighborhood sub-areas to provide a high functioning, cohesive core for Saanich. This includes land uses, building height designations, street interface guidelines and building types and uses.
- A connected mobility network is intended to provide convenient and safe options of travel, increase convenience of transit, and improve travel across all major roads.
- Key features include the introduction of a new laneway to support network connectivity, good movement and to reduce conflicts on primary streets.
- Introduction of a pedestrian/cycling overpass across the Patricia Bay Highway.
- Active transportation and mobility key factors have been taken into consideration.
- The pedestrian network is intended to provide a complete sidewalk network and implement actions in the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) by redesigning streets and boulevards and establishing an alternate transportation reserve fund.
- Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan supports the ATP by implementing separated bike lanes, supporting bike parking, and enhancing regional trails.
- Transit routes are intended to support BC Transit and the Transit Future Plan (2011), create an urban mobility network, build complete streets, enhance the public realm and provide high quality transit service.
- Plans for parking includes shifting parking underground, adaptive reuse of parking structures, designated on-street car-share spaces, developing a parking management strategy, supplying EV and bicycle parking, and secure storage for bicycles and cargo.
- The general design of streets will change with a redesign of major streets into “Significant Streets”, which will enhance pedestrian conditions and facilities, integrate AAA bicycle facilities, incorporate more pedestrian-oriented buildings, and reduce the dominance of motor vehicles. Cross sections of the proposed Significant Streets are included in the UDC, including the proposed addition of Audley Crossing.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- Committee feedback will be included in the supplemental report to Council.
- Electric bicycle parking should be taken into consideration with the parking study.
- Consideration of accessibility for all users should be undertaken at the design phase.
- Pay parking would be beneficial to reduce car use and create revenue.

FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Public Art Options for MOTI barrier wall.
- Bicycle Parking Standards – Administrative Policy and Zoning.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday September 24, 2020.

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary