

**MINUTES**  
**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Tuesday January 26, 2021, at 4:02 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair), Brian Collier, Susan Kerr (via telephone), Robert McLeod, Darrell Wick, Trevor Barry (via telephone), Rachel Corder, Graham Elder (via telephone), Jim Grayson, Karen Laberee (via telephone), Dave Marecek (via telephone).

Staff: Troy McKay, Manager, Transportation & Development Services; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer; Constable Steven Reichert, Saanich Police; Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk.

Absent: Jade Yehia (non-voting liaison).

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## **INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair introduced herself and roundtable introductions of committee members took place. Members detailed the reasons that they are interested in taking part in the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

## **MINUTES**

**MOVED by B. Collier and Seconded by R. McLeod: "That the Minutes of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held October 27, 2020, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

## **CHAIRS REMARKS**

The chair advised that she primarily uses active transportation for work and leisure. The Chair has an interest in connectivity, which drives the conversations around active transportation. Enhancing connectivity to encourage active transportation is a priority. The next meeting will be held in March via Microsoft Teams.

## **COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION**

The following committee administration items were reviewed:

- The Terms of Reference were reviewed for information.
- Beginning in March, the regular meetings Active Transportation Advisory Committee meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**MOVED by B. Collier and Seconded by R. Corder: "That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee approve the schedule to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m."**

**CARRIED**

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## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION REPORT CARD

Troy McKay, Manager, Transportation & Development Services presented the Active Transportation Report Card, which highlighted the advancements of the Active Transportation Plan despite the COVID pandemic. The following was noted:

- A number of infrastructure improvements have just completed.
- One safety improvement is the creation of pedestrian priority intersections, where the walk signal for pedestrians starts four seconds prior to the green light in. Pedestrian priority signals were installed in six intersections in 2020, ten intersection installations are planned for 2021.
- The intersections with accessible curb ramps has been assessed and inventoried. A list of priority intersections that need improvements has been compiled.
- Larchwood drive has recently been completed with all ages and abilities cycling infrastructure, new cross walks, and reduced speed limit to promote the intended safe use of the street.

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

- Saanich has implemented a trial at a couple intersections, which will lengthen the time of the white walk signal and shorten the time of the blinking orange do not walk signal. This will give more time for those who may need it to cross the street, while extending the time for pedestrians to legally enter the cross walk.
- There is a quality element of the definition of a sidewalk. The replacement and upgrading of poor quality sidewalks is ongoing.
- Vehicles need to yield to cyclists and pedestrians in cross walks. Section 8.16 (b) of the *Saanich Streets and Traffic Bylaw* specifies that “a person may ride a cycle in any crosswalk which forms a direct and immediate link between adjacent portions of the Galloping Goose Trail, the Lochside Trail, a Centennial Trail or any other multi-use trail.” The yellow flashers at crosswalks are not a traffic signal, vehicles need to yield regardless of flashing lights.
- The street statistics in the report card are broken up on a block by block basis.
- If the bicycle routes do not connect to each other it can be a disincentive to use them. Considerations of connectivity are made while planning active transportation routes.

## PRESENTATION – GORGE/TILLICUM BIKE LANES

Vera Wynn Williams and Phillip Lancaster of Gorge Tillicum Community Association presented on behalf of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association regarding active transportation in the Gorge/Tillicum area. The following was noted:

- The Tillicum Village core area had multiple impediments to safe and convenient active transportation, including a lack of bike lanes and cross walks.
- The Tillicum Local Area Plan (2000) indicates that Tillicum Road is a Designated Commuter Bikeway. The Tillicum Burnside Action Plan (2005) outlined steps to improve Tillicum Road, and the Official Community Plan (OCP, 2008) also indicates Tillicum as a Commuter Bikeway.
- The section of Tillicum Road between Burnside Road and the TransCanada Highway was upgraded in 2015 with new sidewalks and bike lanes. The Active Transportation Plan (2018) does not prioritize upgrading the remainder of Tillicum
- Improvements to AAA (All ages and abilities) Bicycle infrastructure are planned on Gorge Road.
- The community association would like Saanich to take the lead on Tillicum streetscape improvements, to reprioritize improvements to Tillicum Road, and for Saanich to work with Esquimalt to improve the Gorge Bridge.

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

- There are no cohesive connections between the major centre (Tillicum Mall) and the village center, the Gorge Bridge is a major barrier.
- There have been upgrades to Tillicum from Carey Road to Maddock Avenue. The presentation highlights the area between Maddock Avenue and Gorge Road.
- There is a fundamental need to connect areas. The route needs to be as simple as possible to enable users to choose active transportation.
- In future, the committee may want to look at ways Council could reduce the dependence on developers to lead active transportation network improvements. The infrastructure needs to be created whether or not development is taking place.

**MOVED by D. Wick and Seconded by B. Collier “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee accept the report for information and request that staff add this segment of streets to the list of projects that have been requested by the community for reconsideration when the Active Transportation Plan is updated in 2023.”**

**CARRIED**

## **COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE**

The following was noted:

- Connectivity is important, it would be beneficial for committee members to have a visual representation of how areas are connected and what is planned is for the next five years. Engineering staff will provide an update at the next meeting.
- It would be beneficial to know the areas of expertise of committee members, as well as their experience that relates to their role on the committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is Thursday March 25, 2021.

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Councillor Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary