

MINUTES
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Thursday March 25, 2021, at 4:02 p.m.

Present: Councillor Karen Harper (Chair), Brian Collier, Darrell Wick, Jade Yehia (non-voting liaison), Trevor Barry, Rachel Corder, Graham Elder, Jim Grayson, Karen Laberee, Dave Marecek

Staff: Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation & Development Services; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer; and Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Susan Kerr

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair discussed recent active transportation initiatives, the following was noted:

- Council recently supported an amendment to the Speed Limit Reduction Pilot Program application. If approved, the pilot project will reduce the speed limit on residential roads without a continuous yellow centre line to 30 km/h, rather than the 40km/h that was previously included for the pilot program application.
- Council recently passed resolutions to direct staff to submit grant applications to improve the all ages and abilities cycling network.
- The 2021 budget deliberations are ongoing. Currently there seems to be support for investments to improve the active transportation network.

AGENDA

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by D. Marecek: "That the Agenda of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held March 25, 2021, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

MINUTES

MOVED by G. Elder and Seconded by B. Collier "That the Minutes of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held January 26, 2021, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CLIMATE PLAN REPORT CARD

The Manager of Sustainability provided a verbal update on the Climate Plan Report Card (Powerpoint on file) the following was noted:

- The Climate Plan is a detailed plan to reduce Saanich's greenhouse gas emissions. There are six focus areas, which detail 131 actions to achieve the Climate Plan goals.

- The Climate Plan Report Card is an annual report on progress made towards the goals and actions outlined in the Climate Plan.
- Saanich received an “A” grade through the global Carbon Disclosure Project for monitoring and reporting on sustainability initiatives and environmental impacts.
- Saanich has changed how we report emissions regionally, as well as some global methodology changes. These changes have improved the accuracy of reporting.
- Considerable progress was made in 2020 despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which had an impact on financing and community engagement opportunities.
- Highlights of the actions taken are provided, along with progress on corporate targets, overall progress on 2020 actions, progress by focus area and detailed summaries.

The following was noted in response to questions from members of the committee:

- The E-Mobility Strategy works to address a variety of personal electric vehicles. The climate plan report card includes information progress towards the E-Mobility Actions.
- Idling motor vehicles causes unnecessary pollution. Hybrids and electric vehicles will reduce the amount of pollution emitted during driving and idling.
- Secure parking for E-Bikes and E-mobility devices is important.
- The Climate Plan and report card focus heavily on active transportation, switching home heating to renewable energy sources and reducing food waste.
- Effective community planning is important to ensure efficient availability and use of active transportation and public transportation services.

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by B. Collier: “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee receive the Climate Plan Report Card for information.”

CARRIED

CYCLING ROUTE CONNECTIVITY

The Senior Manager of Transportation & Development Services presented on the Cycling Network Buildout, highlighting current cycling infrastructure, what the plans for future years include, and what the cycling network will look like five years from now. The following was noted:

- The plans for 2021 include bringing some existing cycling routes to current standards.
- There are some gaps that will exist beyond the 5 year plans, such as the ability to cross Highway 17 and McKenzie Avenue. These areas will be addressed in the future.

Committee discussion the following was noted:

- Some areas in Saanich have yellow “Bike Route” signs, but many of these connections have not been included on the current map. The yellow connectivity signs were established long ago. Staff is working to ensure these connectors meet the current standards of what a bike route should be, prior to including them on the bike map.
- Staff is working with the Capital Regional District (CRD) on a GIS based cycling map.
- The plans and designs for new bike routes will be made available on the Saanich website throughout the year as the designs are finalized.

MOVED by G. Elder and Seconded by T. Barry: “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee receives the presentation for information.”

CARRIED

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM) REBALANCING STREETS GUIDE

The committee had an opportunity to review the FCM Rebalancing Streets Guide. The Senior Manager of Transportation commented on the content. The following was noted:

- The report compiles and consolidates information from a variety of information from different manuals, documents and sources.
- Many of the initiatives contained in the report are currently being used by Saanich.
- Quadra Street is included in the five year plan for the active transportation network, but widening the street is unlikely. This initiative will involve some street rebalancing.
- Some locations will include partial road closures and traffic diversions to accommodate active transportation, such as bridge on Tillicum over the Gorge.
- Staff take many factors into consideration on a case by case basis to determine the best option, weighing the pros and cons of redesigning the road or making it wider.

MOVED by K. Laberee and Seconded by B. Collier: “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee receives the FCM Rebalancing Streets report for information.”

CARRIED

SAANICH VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN

Darrell Wick presented information to the committee on the importance of visibility for cyclists and pedestrians. The following was noted:

- The presenter is interested in a campaign to “Be seen in Saanich”, providing lights or reflective wrist/ankle bracelets, along with an educational component.
- Some stores sell lights that are not sufficiently bright, or may be improperly installed.
- Education plays an important role in ensuring residents are safe.

Committee comments ensued and the following was noted:

- Encouragement of safety and promoting education is supported by the committee.
- The visibility of pedestrians and cyclists is a regional issue, not just within Saanich.
- Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) or the CRD Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) may be able to provide some resources on a regional basis.
- The University Of Victoria (UVIC) holds a “Lighten Up” Campaign, lights are given to those who do not have them when needed. The cost of the program is prohibitive.
- A campaign of education and awareness for users of active transportation, as well as drivers would be beneficial. Some drivers do not look for cyclists.
- It would be helpful to have more information on any campaigns with ICBC and TSC.

MOVED by K. Laberee and Seconded by B. Collier “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that staff write a letter to CRD Traffic Safety Commission, ICBC, Saanich Police and the CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit, to raise the issue of the lack of visibility of pedestrians and cyclists, and ask them to provide any information they have on campaigns being undertaken within their organization as a formal response to the committees request.”

CARRIED

INTERURBAN RAIL TRAIL

D. Wick presented information on the Interurban Rail Trail, the following items were noted:

- Some sections of the North end of the trail are not friendly to cyclists.
- If the trail is not highlighted as a good cycling route then development could impede.

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by D. Maracek: “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee receives the information on the Interurban Rail Trail and request that staff bring more information on how this trail will fit into overall plans and budget process, as soon as reasonably able to do so.”

CARRIED

GALLOPING GOOSE MURAL UPDATE

At the September 22, 2020 Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, a motion was passed regarding the possibility of a mural on the sound barrier on the Galloping Goose Regional Trail at the McKenzie interchange. Councillor Brownoff has taken the initiative to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee for the next steps.

MOVED by R. Corder and Seconded by B. Collier: “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee receives the update on the mural for information.”

CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE

The Draft Cordova Bay Local Area Plan will be included on the next agenda. The committee was advised to look at the draft plan from the perspective of the future of pedestrians, cycling and transit in the area.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary