

MINUTES
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Council Chambers, Saanich Municipal Hall
Thursday January 26, 2023, at 4:04 p.m.

Present: Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff (Chair), Reed Poynter, Juliet Van Vliet, Philip Marciniak, Julia Cutt, Curran Crawford, Trevor Barry, Karen Laberee, Janine Konkel, Alexandre Beaubien and Dave Marecek.

Staff: David Williams, Acting Manager of Transportation & Development Services; Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner; Kirsten Brazier, Committee Clerk.

Guests: Beth Hurford, Transportation Planner, Urban Systems Ltd.

MINUTES

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by D. Mareck: “That the minutes of the May 26, 2022, Active Transportation and Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

MOVED by P. Marciniak and Seconded by J. Konkel: “That the minutes of the June 23, 2022, Active Transportation and Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Van Vliet and Seconded by A. Beaubien: “That the minutes of the September 29, 2022, Active Transportation and Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

Councillor Phelps Bondaroff welcomed the committee and guests.

- Saanich is currently updating the committee structure and Terms of Reference (TOR). This committee will continue until the end of March. Applications for appointment to Advisory Committees will be available soon and input on the TOR is welcomed.
- At Monday’s Council meeting, a motion on Traffic Enforcement Cameras was adopted to send to Union of British Columbia Municipalities through the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities.
- Red Light Cameras are currently run by the Province. Municipalities do not have the ability to run them.

REVIEW OF ATAC MEETING SCHEDULE, PROCEDURE AND PURPOSE

- The next meetings are February 23, 2022 at 4 pm and March 23, 2022 at 4 pm.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION REPORT CARD PRESENTATION

Engineering Supervisor, David Williams, provided an update on the Active Transportation Plan Report Card 2022.

Highlights include;

- 5 km of protected bike lanes have been installed.
 - Council adopted the Speed Limit Establishment Policy.
 - Transit, road safety and pedestrian improvements have taken place.
- Staff had used the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Origin Destination Trip Diary as a resource for this report. The information in the report is static. Saanich does not have the resources to collect our own statistical data. The data shows that people are making the choices to shift their travel modes.
 - Previously we have been behind on reduction of collisions. There is now a downward trend on pedestrian related crashes. This trend started before COVID and has been sustained for a number of years. Staff are optimistic that these improvements will increase over time. Saanich is behind on cycling collisions and fatalities.
 - Data on crashes and fatalities are collected through the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) call centre. It is based on individuals reporting. Saanich Police have their own data sets.
 - Metrics from the Report Card on construction metrics were shared. Saanich is behind in a number of areas. Work on neighbourhood bikeways continues (traffic calming, wayfinding signs).
 - Staff provided an overview of neighbourhood bikeways.
 - A member asked for clarification as to what would make a bus stops accessible. Staff provided details as to design elements that would designate a bus stop as accessible. The metric in this report is provided by BC Transit who has requirements for stops that are designated and marked as accessible.
 - A member inquired as to if access to the bus stops themselves been considered as a metric to be added to the Active Transportation Plan. The feedback from the community was to focus on sidewalks in school zones at this time.
 - A new Accessibility & Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee will be looking at some of these issues.
 - Saanich is doing well in the area of traffic signals and cyclist detection signals but is behind on curb ramps and bicycle parking.
 - Saanich has been increasing walking and cycling events in the community.
 - Saanich has worked with schools to make a Safe Route to School Plan. This report is shared with school administration. Each school is running on a 6- or 7-year rotation and will be circled back on. Feedback from a committee member is that this program has been very successful.
 - A member asked if there is a measure of how we could be changing social behaviour. Some groups in Saanich are very interested in collecting these metrics. CRD does collect some data. This data could potentially be sourced from ICBC, however the data set is not yet high enough to be useful at this time.
 - Staff have requested CRD directors to see if they can request regional data. The Councillor will follow up with their colleagues who are working with the CRD.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Beth Hurford of Urban Systems Ltd. provided an update on the Active Transportation Plan.

- This is an update to the current plan.
- We are heading into another phase of engagement this spring. Vision statement, goals and strategies and actions. Another update will be shared with this committee in March.
- Phase 2 was led by staff. Phase 3 was led by the consulting team and staff. The same will take place for Phase 4.
- All engagements have been discussion events to date (direct engagement, working

sessions, stakeholder workshops, internal engagement across departments).

- Engagement questions focused on that new information should be included in an updated plan.

Phase 2 input saw the emergence of new items such as e-bikes, traffic calming improvements.

- Things that are working well include improvements around key corridors, dedicated funding, the e-bike incentive program and stakeholder consultations. The public are more engaged.
- Items to be improved include secure bike parking, cycling training, e-bike sharing program, secure bike parking, updating policy and standards to ensure new developments consider connectivity updates to maps to include revised destinations, intersection improvements, complete sidewalk construction in neighbourhoods, working with CRD to improve regional trails, consistency in infrastructure, and accessibility improvements, interest.
- The public is interested in defined timelines of the implementation plan.

Phase 3 Input includes;

- Meetings with ATAC, community contributor workshops, Transit and internal input.
- Emerging themes are micro mobility, a desire to see transit integrated with Active Transportation, climate action and safety.
- A draft updated vision has been developed. A discussion on how the updated vision is being updated as work on the plan progresses took place.
- Adding health and mental health to the vision statement would be nice to have alongside the climate focus.
- Facilitating the culture change through programs such as the e-bike initiative is important.
- The Provincial housing strategy dovetails into the active transportation work in Saanich.
- The draft goals of the plan have been updated. In addition, a new goal “to build an equitable network that is accessible for all” has been added.
- Committee members provided input on the draft updated goals and the language used.
- The question was raised as to if this document says that we are actively wanting to reduce motor vehicle usage. It was suggested that a reduction in motor vehicle usage could be incorporated into Goal 2.
- A member suggested that Phases 1 and 4 could be integrated to give people the ability to select the best mode to suit their transportation needs on that particular day.
- Consultants are wanting to clearly define what the District means by “equitable network”. They are looking to align this with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy.
- A report out on Phase 3 input, collaboration and updates was provided.

Phase 4 upcoming engagement will take place through surveys, stakeholder check-in, pop-ups and community salons. Promotion of these engagement opportunities will take place.

- The consultant will be back at the March meeting to report on this area.

This discussion will continue at the next meeting. Please ensure to review the materials in the next agenda package to prepare for discussion.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE

The Chair asked members if they would be comfortable with 3-hour meetings for the next two meetings.

- Committee preference would be for hybrid meeting.

If committee members would like to meet with the Councillor, please speak with him to set this up

- By email, please consider sending the Councillor the items and issues you would like to see ATAC work on.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is February 23, 2023 at 4 pm.

Councillor Phelps Bondaroff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Kirsten Brazier, Committee Secretary