

MINUTES
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Council Chambers, Saanich Municipal Hall
Thursday February 23, 2023, at 4:05 p.m.

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

Staff: Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Services; Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner; Kirsten Brazier, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Karen Laberee, Julia Cutt.

MINUTES

MOVED by C. Crawford and Seconded by T. Barry: “That the minutes of the January 26, 2023, Active Transportation and Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

Councillor Phelps Bondaroff welcomed the committee and guests.

ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN (RSAP): STATE OF REPORT

The Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Services provided a presentation on the Road Safety Action Plan.

- Council has adopted Vision Zero and has directed staff to develop a Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP).
- The State of Report is an important piece of developing the RSAP. Broad community consultation will take place this fall.
- Staff are currently working on Phase 2 of the plan.
- Other work includes the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Update and the Speed Limit Establishment Policy.
- Saanich is one of 10 municipalities across the country to adopt a Vision Zero Policy.
- Current crash data was discussed. ICBC data was presented, which is limited to reported accidents.
- Driver inattentiveness is one of the highest contributing factors to crashes based on police data.
- Equity Analysis is being incorporated into the RSAP. Areas with larger equity-deserving populations will be prioritized for safety improvements.
- A member asked how people with disabilities are captured in this data set. As staff complete a more structured infrastructure review, this is a lens that will be applied. Data sets for this area are under development.
- Crash locations and overall equity scores have been captured and mapped.
- Network screening is underway to identify crash-prone locations and analyze infrastructure changes that may be needed.

- Stakeholder meetings are taking place on March 14th at Cedar Hill Golf Course.

Committee Discussion

- When looking at the maps, the areas that are prone to bike and car collisions are different. There is no priority focus group that is currently assigned.
- As only six other municipalities are working on Vision Zero, the question was raised as to why others are not working on this. Many other municipalities have not chosen this as an area of focus at this time. Saanich is ahead of the curve.
- In the last active transportation plan, Saanich skirted around Vision Zero. This time Saanich is diving in and is ahead of many other municipalities in the region.
- The definition of Vision Zero will be more clearly defined in the report. The data does not allow Staff to pull out serious injuries for study.
- Working with diverse data sets to bring them together has been challenging. Hospitalization data is useful, but not as complete as the ICBC data.
- Police now only attend collisions where there are injuries or over \$10k in damage. This data is difficult to collect.
- Transit is looking at building more park and ride facilities at Westshore, Royal Oak and Sayward.
- The question was raised of how hard residents and this committee be pushing to make major change in Saanich to keep people safe. One of the most effective ways to reduce collisions is to reduce vehicles. Conversation will continue around how bold Saanich wants to be in this area.
- These discussions are happening at staff level, and they are looking at how work with residents and council to bring forward meaningful change.
- Licensing in the report is referring to the process of how we license new drivers and provide.
- As we move to the Transportation committee, will there be a focus on work with BC Transit. Continuing with the municipalities' integration with transit is a goal on the planning side. There are some limitations to the existing model of how BC Transit services the region. Staff will continue to work to have BC Transit attend a future meeting.
- How Transit is evolving their service model is a conversation staff would like to have with Transit representative when they attend a future meeting.
- If most accidents are occurring at intersections, the question was raised as to if a reduction in intersections would be helpful. Installations of roundabouts and traffic circles will be suggested as solutions.
- Studies have been done across the country to see which infrastructure changes are most effective. The consultants that Staff are working with is one of the leading professionals in the country. The future document will have more detailed actions included. There are a range of cost implications and business cases for different safety measures.
- Other measures such as ride sharing and technology innovations that will change transportation as whole will be captured in the report.
- Mobility aids could be included in the language of the report.
- The ability of parents to efficiently access transit for school pick up and drop off is important. Many routes are not efficient for children to travel to school.
- A breakdown of the demographics and mode share would be important to include in this report.
- Transit on major roads to rural areas is lacking. There is a connection with the regional boards that need to be explored.

- It might be useful to see current mode share and trends in mode share explored in the report.
- Local area plans have been included and more will be added in the RSAP as they are developed.
- A map with road classifications would be helpful to map out accidents by type on residential streets. Network screening will address the point of road classifications.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Senior Transportation Planner provided an update on the Active Transportation Plan.

- The timeline presented tonight can be found on the website. Residents can sign up for notifications through the website www.Saanich.ca/atpupdate
- In September staff met with ATAC to workshop and seek input on the exiting plan.
- In the fall over 50 stakeholder groups were approached to take part in a workshop, 14 stakeholder groups attended.
- The goal was to look at targets in the existing plan and draft revisions on the feedback that was heard.
- Staff are now in the late stages of Phase 3 and are in the process of finalizing the draft updated plan. Public engagement is scheduled to begin in the spring (April).
- Phase 4 (March to June) will be public and stakeholder engagement.
- Phase 5 (July to October) will be finalized then presented to Council and committees.
- Prior to the March ATAC meeting a draft will be shared for review. Comments are welcome.
- In April public engagement will begin on the project website and through social media.

Committee Discussion

- The question arises of how bold Saanich is willing to be. There needs to be clarity on this in order to finish these documents. Direction has been provided by Council in this area.
- Staff are looking to present to Council in March and will look for feedback on the goals and vision.
- Members feel that Saanich “punches above its weight” in this area. A motion from this committee would help to give staff direction.
- How the policies are being adequately funded is also important.
- The need to be bold in this area is important. Sending a motion up to council would be an important step.
- Motions could also be workshopped and placed on the Transportation Committee (TAC) Action List.
- The question was raised as to how the objectives laid out in the ATAC Terms of Reference are linked to these reports.

SINCLAIR ROAD UPGRADE PROJECT

The Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Services provided an update on the Sinclair Road Project.

- Staff are well on the way with designing the Sinclair Road project.
- The project includes protected bike lanes and separated sidewalks. Landscaping is being added.
- Schematic drawings are available to view on the website.
- The 4-way stop at Peppers will be converted to a roundabout. It will be raised on the approach to the roundabout to slow speeds.

- Through consultation with the community lots of concern was raised as to how the 4-way stop was not effective.
- Design will be out to tender this summer with construction beginning at the end of the year. It will be approximately an 18-month project. Underground utilities will also be replaced.

Committee Discussion

- The plan has been developed to maximize the use of the land that is available.
- University of Victoria staff have been consulting with Saanich. Student take-up on the opportunity for feedback was low. Partners in the university have been providing feedback.
- Saanich was successful in obtaining two BC Active Transportation Grants, \$500,000 for Shelbourne Phase Two and \$500,000 for Gorge Road Phase One.

ACTION LIST

The Chair led a committee discussion on the Action Item list. Points discussed included:

- To identify a few items that could be accomplished right way and to capture the institutional memory of passing along ideas to the next committee.
- Staff suggested the categories of policy, infrastructure, and advocacy for the items on this list. Some of the items would be incorporated into larger action plans.
- VKT and Streetlight data – this could be brought to Union of British Columbia Municipalities as a resolution from Council. Members could draft a resolution for discussion at the next meeting.

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by D. Marecek: “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee create a working group to draft a UBCM resolution to present to Council to ask the province to improve active transportation data, and to report back to the committee for the next meeting.”

CARRIED

MOVED by D. Marecek and Seconded by J. Van Vliet: “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee create a working group that drafts a motion to request that the Capital Regional District develop data on transportation mode-share in the region.”

CARRIED

- Advocacy and Culture: Pop-up Lab at University to explore methods of building/shifting culture to support sustainable mobility choice. Explore other ways of shifting transportation culture and be open to running pilots that are evaluated using a wide range of robust metrics.
- Reviewing bike lane priorities and Traffic Calming: Will be addressed at ATP.
- Temporary Chicanes: Will be addressed in RSAP.
- Serious Accidents Clearing House/Accident Report Platform: Creating a dashboard that documents major accidents in the District, it would include information relating to the accident – police reports, engineering reviews, recommendations, and outcomes for those involved (fines, punishments, injuries, respecting privacy). This will allow members of the public to follow up and understand what occurred (beyond immediate news media stories) and to understand what measures, if any, are being taken to evaluate the area and make any improvements should they be needed. The goal here is to provide follow-up

information – how do we fix any problems that are identified, what is the timeline for these changes.

MOVED by P. Marciniak and Seconded by D. Marecek “That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee create a working group to clarify the details of the serious action clearing house and report back next month.”

CARRIED

- Crosswalk education: Explore ways of improving education and safety around crosswalks for all road users. Add to TAC list.
- Walking School Bus: Explore ways of encouraging active transportation for school drop off and pickup, such as walking school buses. Add to TAC list.
- Parking Minimums: On work plan for planning permit
- On-Street Parking: Explore means to addressing on-street parking issues in Saanich, including reducing parking around parks, resident only parking programs, parking pass systems, paid parking to fund active transportation measures, and parking bylaw enforcement. Add to TAC list, this item will need update from Bylaw Enforcement. Develop a system have pay parking fund active transportation.
- Bike Parking Minimums: This item is on the work plan for a planning permit.
- Vehicular Noise: Propose a noise camera pilot project, improving our ability to monitor and enforce vehicular noise bylaws. Add to TAC list.
- Bike Lane Clearing and Cleaning: Add to TAC list. There is a “Report A Problem” area on the website. Further promotion of this tool would be helpful.
- Clear Paths, Trails and Sidewalks: Review and improve Saanich’s policies concerning cleaning/maintaining bike lanes and clearing bike lanes from snow. This could include policies to help prevent garbage and recycling bins from ending up impeding bike lanes. Create a central place for residents to communicate with the district. There needs to be a transparent system on issues that have been reported and if it has been fixed. TAC could ask for staff to report on existing reporting mechanisms.
 - Exploring awareness of the reported problem function on the website. Improving transparency feedback around reporting. Add to TAC list.
- Avoid Construction Confusion: Addressed in ATP.
- Bollard Safety: Review bollards on trails (within Saanich jurisdiction) for safety. Add to TAC list.
- Quick Build Evaluation: Establish processes for evaluating the effectiveness of the recent quick builds. Add to TAC list.
- Outstanding Quick Builds: Explore implementing the quick builds that were not included in the 2022 quick build list, with possible new additions (see components of this list). Add to TAC list.
- Problem Area Reporting Dashboard: Propose a simple feedback process for residents to report problem areas, one that includes a list of previously reported areas and actions taken. Combine with above.
- Bike Valets for events: In ATP.
- Build a Safety City: Explore building a regional ‘Safety City’ – a miniature town with example traffic devices to help train (young) people on traffic safety. Previously known as Tom Thumb Safety Village, this learning centre is no longer operational. Ask CRD to explore. Add to TAC list, possibly Parks Committee.
- Free Transit, Transit Payment Methods, Next Ride: Explore various models for increasing transit ridership and access, and request improvements to payment methods (with transit cards – Compass Card, Oyster Card). Transit dream list – provincial transit

- pass/card. Add to TAC list for Transit to present to committee.
- Bus Stop Accessibility: Add to TAC list and the Accessibility, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (ADEI). This is also included in the ATP.
 - Pole in Sidewalk Inventory: Identify instances of utility poles in the middle of sidewalks or impeding mobility on sidewalks. Would require a motion through council asking staff to discuss with Hydro. Add to TAC list.
 - Push Button Review: Where they are used, ensure that pushbuttons are accessible. Send to ADEI.
 - Carrot and Stick Traffic Fines: Explore innovative ways to improve road safety and compliance with traffic laws through how fines are levied – such as the City of Canmore’s ‘reward ticket program’ whereby drivers found not breaking the law are entered into a draw to win a gift card to a local business. FYI.
 - Playground and School Zones or Areas: Add to TAC list. Include school liaison and drop-off safety.
 - Vision Zero Fund: Outside of scope of the committee.
 - Giant Trucks: Do something about the size of large personal vehicles (trucks and SUVs). This falls outside of the jurisdiction of Saanich Council but could perhaps be a letter to a higher level of government/a regulator, or a motion to UBCM or FCM. Outside of scope of the committee. Add to TAC list to continue to explore.
 - Bylaw Enforcement: Review, with an eye at improving, current practices around bylaw enforcement, including exploring increasing coverage for evenings and weekends, and less populous communities. Enforcement of parking in less populous communities. Add to TAC list.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

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

Councillor Phelps Bondaroff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Kirsten Brazier, Committee Secretary