

**MINUTES**  
**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

**October 16, 2014 at Noon**

Present: Councillor Vic Derman (Chair), David DeShane, Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Corey Newcomb, and Darrell Wick

Staff: Mike Lai, Manager of Transportation; Gary Darrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Police Sgt. Alan Gurzinski; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Absent: Ray Straatsma

Guest: Carolyn Stewart, Park Planner CRD Regional Parks

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### Minutes

**MOVED by J. Grayson and Seconded by C. Newcomb: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held September 18, 2014, be amended by adding the words 'unpaved sections of' to the motion regarding Cyclist Safety on Blenkinsop Road."**

**CARRIED**

**MOVED by D. DeShane and Seconded by J. Grayson: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held September 18, 2014, be adopted as amended."**

**CARRIED**

### CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair acknowledged Committee's concern with Biped's late involvement with the CRD Wayfinding item. Consultation had been done, but at the staff level. At last week's CRD Board meeting, the CRD Strategic Plan was reviewed and Councillor Derman and Councillor Brownoff made a motion requesting further consultation through Council and Committee's of Council and this motion was passed. Although the timeline is not clear, more conversation will occur with the CRD regarding Wayfinding, and this Committee will be asked to comment further on the CRD Master Plan (regarding cycling and pedestrian issues).

### CRD REGIONAL TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Carolyn Stewart, Park Planner at CRD Regional Parks presented information about the CRD Regional Trails Management Plan. Committee members and staff provided comments, and the following was noted:

- There are 3 regional trails (Gallopig Goose, Lochside and E& N Rail Trail).
- The Regional Trails Management Plan will be the overarching policy (Vision) for the 3 trails; each trail will have its own chapter.
- Classifications of the trails are: Gallopig Goose, 33km multi-use and 22km bike and pedestrian trail; Lochside, 29km bike and pedestrian trail; and, E&N Rail will be 17km bike and pedestrian trail (9km is completed).

- Multi-use trail allows horses.
- In terms of ownership, CRD does not own the corridors; they lease the land and have development and maintenance agreements for different parts of the trail systems with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), applicable municipalities and the Island Corridor Foundation.
- The goal is to connect communities and provide outdoor recreation opportunities and an alternate non-motorized transportation network.
- Motor assist vehicles are permitted on trails and licensed vehicles are not. There are challenges in that some motor-assist bicycles sometimes look like licensed mopeds.
- In terms of timeline, it is hoped that the public can review the draft plan in the spring or summer 2015 and have a final plan approved by the CRD Board by the fall or winter with a plan implementation in 2016. This is a 10 year plan.
- Public sessions were held in Victoria, Langford and Sidney. It was noted that Saanich has a large amount of trails in the municipality as well as a high population and it was suggested that a public session should also be held in Saanich.
- It was noted that committees do not meet in the summer; the Chair requested a presentation of the draft plan to the BiPed Committee if possible.
- CRD have tried to get in touch with cycling and equine groups for feedback. It is challenging finding pedestrian groups.
- In terms of advertising information there will be information posted on the CRD website, in Black Press and the Times Colonist papers, in email notices to Local Governments and Electoral Areas, as well as posters for posting in public areas.
- There are jurisdictional issues; infrastructure placement issues with crossovers in jurisdiction. When the Regional Cycle and pedestrian Master Plan comes forward the committee should be able to comment on those areas.
- In terms of user conflicts, the CRD is considering widening and/or separation options. There are challenges with multi-use trails.
- It was noted that the Lochside Trail requires paving in certain areas and this should be a priority given its urban nature.
- There are regular conflict issues on trails; the question was raised about enforcement of the Motor Vehicle Act, Highways Act, and various local government Bylaws, and under whose authority regulations will be enforced. Additionally, how is a person to know the Bylaws and what are violations. The CRD would welcome input from Police in these types of discussions.
- The Management Plan will address issues like access signs on the Lochside Trail as well as road names at intersections. Criteria will have to be looked at; this is an evolving process.
- There will be something in the Management Plan that addresses intersection crossings and an education program in this regard should be developed for all (drivers and trail users). It was suggested that information be provided to the public regarding sharrows and elephant feet as well.
- It was suggested that maintenance procedures are developed to ensure that sharrows and other markings remain highly visible.
- The Management Plan in each Chapter will have identified priority sections for budget purposes.

## **CYCLING PRIORITIES**

The Chair noted that he had not yet received any comments about the document, "Setting Cycling Infrastructure Priorities for Saanich". A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The need for a major pedestrian and cyclist master plan will be added to the document.

- Safety and education are needed regionally as is clarification of rules, encouraging helmet use etc.
- Overall committee agrees with the document but feels that it is too long.

The Chair acknowledged the length of the document and noted that the information included is detailed so this can be a reference document for the benefit of staff and Council. Council's change and may not be informed of the background information; a detailed document can provide the background needed. An edited version will be sent to committee members electronically.

\*\*\* Corey Newcomb left the meeting at 1:15 p.m. \*\*\*

## **SNOW REMOVAL**

The Chair noted that in Saanich the tradition is to plow snow from the streets onto sidewalks and bicycle lanes even though the priority modes are supposed to be in favour of transit, pedestrians and cyclists. He provided members with a copy of a report dated February 10, 2009 he had submitted to Council about snow removal procedures. A discussion occurred and the following comments were noted:

- Committee would like a Public Works representative to be invited to the next meeting to discuss how to modify priorities and optimize bus modes and access to bus stops.
- The other aspect of snow removal that does not work is access to sidewalks and bike lanes. It is recognized that sidewalk clearing is a Bylaw issue but it does not always work; residents would clear sidewalks only to have snow clearing equipment pile the snow back on the area just cleared. Would Saanich be able to look at clearing sidewalks in some areas (eg. Shelbourne and McKenzie Streets)?
- Committee would like to see a proposal with better priorities in clearing sidewalks on major roads and the implications this could have if Saanich took this responsibility.
- Because it would not be an annual issue, there would not be an increase in budget.
- The suggestion was made to have plows put snow in the middle of the road rather than the edge as they do in Edmonton; however the snow needs to be removed and dumped.
- The practicality was questioned as there are very few snow events and there is no place to put the snow.
- The CRD responded fairly well on trails during the last snowfall.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is Thursday, November 20, 2014

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Councillor Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary