

**MINUTES**  
**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2**  
**Thursday February 16, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Vic Derman (Chair), Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Rebecca Mersereau, Barb Sharpe, and Darrell Wick

Staff: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Rebecca Abernethy, Alex Nagelbach, Anne Topp

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### **Minutes**

**MOVED by B. Sharpe and Seconded by J. Grayson: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held January 19, 2017 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair stated that he has recently spoken with the Director of Planning about the long-range planning vision with regards to mode share, and informed members that Planning staff will attend meetings when necessary. He noted that the intentions in the Official Community Plan are good but questioned how well they are actioned and if there is a comprehensive plan in this regard.

### **SNOW REMOVAL AND PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION MODES.**

The Chair circulated a document, "Concerns Regarding Current Snow Clearing Practices in Saanich", photos of snow on sidewalks and roads, as well as a copy of a report that he had submitted to Council in 2009 regarding snow removal procedures.

Committee members discussed the challenges surrounding the requirement for property owners to clear off snow from their sidewalks, particularly when in some instances Saanich's snowplow will re-fill the cleared sidewalks when they plow the streets. This mostly occurs on major roads, and not smaller residential streets. Some committee members felt that bylaw enforcement surrounding sidewalk clearing by property owners should be strengthened and perhaps the policy on this should be reviewed. It was noted that this is definitely a budget issue and staff have limited resources.

The Director of Engineering answered various questions from committee members and noted that staff work around the clock preparing for snow events with saline solution to de-ice roads and parking lots. He stated that bus shelters are cleared first and they try to clear the network where they can. He advised that the annual snow removal budget is \$180,000. Last year \$245,000 was spent on snow removal/de-icing, and this year alone (January 1 – present) \$125,000 has been spent. In response to a suggestion that snow be plowed into the middle of streets instead of the side, he noted that new plows would be needed otherwise the existing plows would have to drive down the wrong side of the street. He also suggested that snow blown into the middle of streets could cause other problems and possibly blow over onto the other side of the road, defeating the purpose.

The overall feeling of committee members is that Saanich could enhance their current snow removal capabilities, and it was suggested that if homeowners do not clear their own sidewalk perhaps hiring a company to do the work and charge this back to the homeowner may be a solution. Committee members did not wish to take any action on this item at this time; the Chair may bring a new report to Council on his own again for consideration.

### **TOPICS FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

The Chair circulated a document entitled, “Topic Areas for Future Biped Attention”, and committee members provided feedback, and also discussed their Terms of Reference and mandate. In response to a question, the Director of Engineering noted that the final report on the Active Transportation workshop will not be ready for a while as there are reams of data to go through.

The Chair will re-circulate an edited version of the “Topic Areas for Future Biped Attention” at the next meeting.

### **MAKING RESIDENTIAL STREETS SHARED SPACES**

The Chair circulated a document entitled “Making Residential Streets Shared Spaces”, along with a couple of articles about sharing roads. For discussion at the March 2017 meeting.

### **LIGHTING ON REGIONAL TRAILS AND OTHER ROUTES**

The Director of Engineering noted that the issue of lights on regional trails was raised at the recent Active Transportation workshop. He informed members that LED lighting results in huge maintenance and energy savings as LED lights last about 15 years longer than traditional lights.

This item to be discussed at a meeting when R. Abernethy is in attendance.

### **SAANICH CYCLING FESTIVAL**

The 2017 Cycling Festival will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The format will be the same as last year and volunteers are needed for check-in stations. The same booklet from last year will be used and advertising will be placed on trails. There are some issues to resolve surrounding the kids ride.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2017.

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Councillor Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary