

MINUTES
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Atwell (Chair), Brian Collier, Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Rebecca Mersereau, Alex Nagelbach, Anne Topp

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

Regrets: Barb Sharpe, Darrell Wick

Guests: Carolyn Stewart, Park/Trail Planner and Todd Shannon, Operations Supervisor, CRD Regional Parks

Minutes

MOVED by J. Grayson and Seconded by J. Gaylord: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held April 20, 2017, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

CRD UPDATE

Carolyn Stewart, Park/Trail Planner and Todd Shannon, Operations Supervisor, CRD Regional Parks, were present to provide an update about the Regional Trails Management Plan (RTMP) and to inform committee members about their operations priorities for CRD regional trails. The following was noted:

- Thirteen short term actions have been approved for the RTMP. Some actions include outreach and education for all trail user groups.
- Trails were signed at different times so signage is to be improved and made consistent. In response to a comment that street names should be indicated to help trail users navigate more easily, it was noted that this has been started on the E&N Rail Trail and will be part of the sign plan.
- Mapping of visitor facilities will occur; CRD will work with Saanich with this and also identify responsibilities (eg. for trees, snow removal, trail upkeep, benches, etc.).
- Regional trail planning in the Gulf Islands is a priority with the CRD Board and is to be completed in 2018.
- Bollards:
 - The CRD has not had significant numbers of incidents related to bollards given the three million visits to regional trails annually. CRD does work with the information provided by BikeMaps.
 - Bollards prevent private and commercial vehicles accessing the trails. They also alert trail users that they are approaching a trail-road crossing.
 - The operational policies in the RTMP were reviewed by the CRD Risk Management section before it was approved by the CRD Board.
 - The yellow paint used on regional trails is not reflective due to cost and maintenance issues. The Director of Engineering noted that reflective lights are typically at crosswalks/stop bars at intersections for cars.
- Kilometer markers will be updated and made consistent. The E&N Rail Trail will not be marked until completed.

- They will be looking at the feasibility and cost/benefit of separating or widening the Galloping Goose trail from the Selkirk trestle to Highway No. 1/McKenzie Avenue, and the Lochside trail from the Switch Bridge to McKenzie Avenue.
- With regards to manure on trails, equestrians have been asked to ride on the side of the trail. There are some equestrian volunteers that clean the trail and some people take the droppings for their gardens.

An update was given on regional trails operations priorities completed in 2016 and planned for 2017. The following was noted:

- Rock scaling was done between Saanich Road and McKenzie Avenue. Some trees were removed and the area was improved/assessed.
- Trestles:
 - Some boards were replaced on the Swan Trestle and Selkirk Trestle in 2016. There are more boards and stringers to replace in 2017, and an assessment of options for the surfacing of the Swan Trestle will be done with work hopefully being completed in 2018.
 - Trestles are a CRD priority; condition assessments are being done on all wooden trestles.
 - In winter they use sand and try to de-ice trestles. Committee members asked that alternative options be considered in terms of surface materials on trestles, and suggested they be given opportunity to comment on surface options being considered. It was noted that the Regional Parks Committee will consider the options being proposed in an open public meeting.
 - Tender process is happening for trestle deck board replacement on the Swan, Selkirk and other bridges and trestles along the Galloping Goose trail.
- Asphalt repaving is another focus as there is a fair amount of root heave.
- Line painting improvements on the Lochside trail are on the list as well.
- Some ditches and culverts need addressing, some overhead brushing is being done.
- Gravel resurfacing and ditch clearing is to be done from Wale Road out towards Sooke.
- A signs inventory will be done and an updated sign plan including trail etiquette signs will be done for all three regional trails.

A discussion occurred about the Trans-Canada Trail connection, now called The Great Trail (TGT). In the CRD, TGT will run between Clover Point in Victoria and the CRD-Cowichan Valley Regional District boundary. CRD is responsible for two sections (Galloping Goose and Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail – together 28 of the 40 km). It is hoped that TGT will be completed in the fall of this year. The CRD hired two additional staff members to help with the workload.

Committee members inquired about various trail issues and the following was noted:

- In terms of information about accessibility of trails, there is a user-friendly trails guide on the CRD website.
- Most trails are level because they were rail trails. Accessibility is always a consideration in planning, and is in the RTMP.
- The McKenzie Avenue Galloping Goose overpass construction trail should be in place by the fall. It is fortunate that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) was able to keep the trails open during construction.
- A question was asked about how long until the trail resurfacing is completed in the McKenzie construction area. It was suggested that a separated trail be considered for the area. CRD will speak to MOTI liaisons about these issues.

LIGHTING ON REGIONAL TRAILS AND OTHER ROUTES

Committee members inquired about various lighting issues and the following was noted:

- The CRD's policy regarding lighting on regional trails is that all trail users should have lights so they can both see and be seen.
- A lighting study is to be done (medium term action) and will consider at least seven different aspects, including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- The cost of installing and maintaining lights is a consideration given the 100 km of regional trails.
- Solar lighting has been considered however canopy cover is an issue.
- Having lights on timers could be investigated.
- There are other short term priority actions being worked on at this time.
- When the study is done CRD could investigate installing power when trail sections are added, however it only makes sense to do this for large areas.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Committee members discussed a list of possible items for discussion, and it was noted that many of the suggested issues will be addressed by the Active Transportation Plan (#movingsaanichfwd). The Director of Engineering also responded to questions from committee members. The following was noted:

- Committee could review the Official Community Plan/Policies/Neighbourhood Plans etc. and provide input, however comments would not be acted upon until such time that policy/plan reviews are done.
- Pre-zoning could be considered; currently projects are zoned one at a time.
- Density and lack of planning are a concern; it would be good to remedy the perceived disconnect.
- Saanich does not educate the public on land use, what densification means, and how it can benefit communities.
- The Pedestrian Priorities Implementation Plan (PPIP) was developed by Urban Systems and prioritizes new sidewalks. Staff have looked at this Plan and would like to refine some areas. The Active Transportation Plan will address some pedestrian issues. Current funding for sidewalks does not cover needs.
- Some municipalities have a local improvement process available where if you have a road with no lights, sidewalks, gutters, curbs etc., residents on that street can pay 60% of the costs and the municipality will pay 40%. Much of Vancouver was done this way.
- Most new funding is spent on active transportation (cycling/walking) infrastructure.
- The Shelbourne Street project impacts other major projects and some 'complete streets' projects have been deferred (eg. Glanford and Sinclair project). If grants are received then projects can be moved up. The Active Transportation Plan sets priorities.
- Work on Gorge Road to repave/stripe and improve ramps has been postponed to 2018 because of drainage work.
- BC Transit has its own plan called 'Transit Futures'. Saanich's plan is focused on active transportation plus connections to transit.
- Issues such as soil creep and grass and vegetation problems on sidewalks are not a primary focus of the Active Transportation Plan. There is \$15,000 in the budget to address vegetation and much of this has been spent on the Shelbourne/North Dairy area. Residents are encouraged to adopt boulevards to help address problem areas.

*** A. Topp left the meeting at 6:00 pm ***

- It was suggested that the average person does not know who to contact for many issues and that a guide to municipal services brochure would be very helpful. The top questions/answers could be put into a booklet and inserted with utility bills or tax notices.
- Regarding bringing awareness to congestion relief, climate change, quality of life etc. with walking and cycling, it may be good to market ideas during events such as the cycling festival.
- Motorists driving in bicycle lanes is a problem and driver education is needed.

Committee members discussed Interurban Rail Trail and options regarding the sewage pipe installation along the trail. The Director of Engineering noted that it is likely that sewage conveyance maybe installed in that location. Presently there is a gravel path open to all users but it is mostly used as a horse trail. He noted that they will be replacing the existing sewer pipeline going out to Hartland area and there is opportunity to have a different trail surface; CRD would likely want Saanich to undertake public consultation for this. Committee members suggested that this may be a very good area to separate the trail for horses and cyclists/walkers. A suggestion was made to write to the CRD about the conveyance pipe going alongside/underneath the Interurban Rail Trail.

Motion: MOVED by J. Grayson and Seconded by B. Collier, “That the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee write to the CRD Wastewater Treatment Project Board to inquire about the proposed sewer pipeline conveyance route as it travels through Saanich, and the proposed consultation timeline for this project.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The item regarding making residential streets shared spaces was deferred to a future committee meeting when D. Wick is present.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017.

Mayor Atwell, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary