

MINUTES
PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Police Building, Kirby Room
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 5:30 pm

Present: Councillor Zac de Vries (Chair), Ericka Amador (via telephone), Sophia Baker-French (via telephone 5:28pm), Lois-Leah Goodwin, Brittany Higginson, Richard Michaels, Peter Rantucci (via telephone), Shawn Steele (via telephone 5:28 pm)

Staff: Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Services; Alanna McDonagh, Planner, Community Planning; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Taylor Alexander, William Bedford, Sonja Cunningham

Minutes

MOVED by L. Goodwin and Seconded by R. Michaels: “That the Minutes of the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held September 10, 2020, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair refrained from making comments as he noted there are a number of recommendations and presentations to be made tonight.

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION PILOT PROJECT

The Senior Manager of Transportation and Development Services presented information regarding a Speed Limit Reduction Pilot Project, which looks at reducing the speed limits on local roads through a 3-year pilot project. The following was noted:

- Last fall, staff wrote to the province asking them to modernize the Motor Vehicle Act to allow local governments to change the speed limits, as changing the default speed limit currently can only be done via bylaw and signage changes.
- Several municipalities across BC have expressed an interest in having the authority to establish default reduced speed limits in residential areas.
- Because there is a provincial election, the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Project application may be delayed.

In response to questions from committee members, the Senior Manager stated:

- The application will be made as a consortium of municipalities and will ask to reduce the default speed limit to 40km/h on roads without a yellow line (about 370 km of road).
- Municipalities included in this application: Sidney, North Saanich, Central Saanich, Saanich, Oak Bay, Victoria, Esquimalt, View Royal.
- There is a significant decrease in the severity of collisions and fatalities with a reduction to 40 km/h.
- This pilot project will be good for collecting data. Staff already has speed data and accident data and this will build on that.
- The pilot project will have to be rolled out and advertised largely. It is not yet known what enforcement will look like but there would definitely be a grace period as it is a 3-year project. Some educational enforcement may be needed.
- It is important to note that surrounding streets with no yellow line are the only proposed roads for the pilot. There are no plans for additional traffic calming measures.

- This project has to be signed off with municipal Councils, hopefully in the next couple months.
- Staff are looking for committee support to make an application to the government in the spring.

Committee comments:

- It would be of benefit to ensure that Community Associations are aware of this pilot project so that they may get the word out to the community.
- It is important that definitions are understood; some people may use the term ‘residential road or local roads’, and not understand which roads will be affected.

Motion: MOVED by L. Goodwin and Seconded by R. Michaels, “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends that Council supports the Speed Limit Reduction Pilot Project to reduce the default speed limit on residential roads to 40km/h.”

CARRIED

E-MOBILITY STRATEGY

The E-Mobility Strategy was presented at last month’s advisory committee meeting, however there was no quorum at that time to make a motion.

Motion: MOVED by R. Michaels and Seconded by B. Higginson, “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends that Council supports the E-Mobility Strategy.”

CARRIED

Committee members expressed interest in the fact that electric bicycles can cover the same distances as electric cars and that the uptake in electric bicycle sales was underestimated. The mode shift target in the e-mobility strategy may be low because of the unexpected increase in e-bikes and other e-mobility devices.

Motion: MOVED by L. Goodwin and Seconded by B. Higginson, “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends that Council prioritize e-bikes and alternative e-mobility devices in the e-mobility strategy.”

CARRIED

UPTOWN-DOUGLAS PLAN

The Uptown-Douglas Plan was presented at last month’s advisory committee meeting, however there was no quorum at that time to make a motion. The following comments were noted:

- The hub has a residential and commercial component that should be a major part of the overall scheme.
- In reply to the comment that pre-zoning areas is a good idea, the Planner noted that Council directed staff to move forward with the pre-zoning of two land use designations, namely Urban Mixed-Use and Mixed Employment.
- In reply to a comment about the future growth of areas surrounding the hub, the Planner noted that staff are working with BC Transit, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure including working towards realizing the identified transit hub in the area and the introduction of rapid transit along Douglas Street, as identified in the

Transit Future Plan (2011). Transportation and mobility are critical components of the Uptown-Douglas Plan.

- It will be important to ensure that there is adequate room to accommodate LRT infrastructure along Douglas Street.

The Chair noted that Saanich does not yet have an Economic Development Strategy but land use planning documents will need to be reviewed and considered when there is a strategy.

Motion: MOVED by R. Michaels and Seconded by L. Goodwin, “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends to Council that upon the conclusion of an Economic Development Strategy for Saanich, that land use planning documents be reviewed and updated through the lens of the Economic Development Strategy.”

CARRIED

The Planner noted that an economic analysis has been done, and staff have met with a variety of stakeholders to help get some direction on an Economic Development policy. Staff are preparing a supplemental report to Council per their request.

SIPP FUNDING

Information was presented regarding the South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) at last month’s advisory committee meeting, however there was no quorum at that time to make a motion. Subsequent financial information was received by committee from SIPP in a memorandum dated October 1, 2020.

Committee members noted that although this is a large ask, this is a reasonable request especially with the financial impacts due to COVID-19. They are asking for less money per capita than other organizations.

Motion: MOVED by L. Goodwin and Seconded by R. Michaels, “That the Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve the request from South Island Prosperity Partnership for a five-year funding renewal with Saanich by including it in the 2021 draft budget.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Councillor de Vries, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary