

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Committee Room 2, Saanich Municipal Hall & MS Teams
Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff (Chair), Trevor Barry, Alexandre Beaubien, Rachel Corder, Andrea Glen, Janine Konkell, Georgia Myles, Colin Stepney

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

Regrets: Douglas Pascoe

CHAIRS REMARKS

Councillor Phelps Bondaroff welcomed the committee and guests.

- The chair provided an update on relevant UBCM meeting resolutions. Updates on the progress of these resolutions will be provided as they become available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by T. Barry and C. Stepney: "That the minutes of the June 22, 2023, Active Transportation and Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

DELEGATION PRESENTATION: CONCERNED CARGO BIKE USERS

Community member Edward Pullman delivered a presentation behalf of Concerned Cargo Bike users (Capital Bike).

- A motion arose in a February 2017 Council meeting to review bollard usage policy and to forward to the CRD to consider reducing the bollard usage on trails.
- A CalTrans Highway Design manual recommends only using bollards as a last resort.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) policy does not consider bollards to be a risk on trails in the region.
- A UBC study sites an increased risk of crash with the use of bollards.
- The BC Active Transportation Design Guidelines note that rigid bollards are not current best practice.
- Where bollards are necessary, the installation of larger bollards increase visibility and are safer for pathway users, especially for cargo bikes.
- The data from the CRD and Saanich that would track injuries caused by bollards appears to be lacking.
- CRD has moved some bollards back from their original positions to be placed on CRD property.
- The pathway around the Victoria Airport Authority has had some bollard removed to facilitate better access for users.
- Capital Bike suggests that TAC make a motion to Council to direct staff to request staff review the bollard use policy and that Saanich Council contact the CRD to discuss the usage of bollards on trails.
- Capital Bike requests that the committee express a desire to expedite the work to address the bollard issue, and to also connect with the CRD to have discussion on this topic.

Committee Discussion

- Cycling Without Age has requested better access to bike trails to allow them to use their adaptive bikes.
- Staff noted that there is no Bollard Use Policy in Saanich. This is covered under the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Design Guide.
- Saanich does not have the ability to have the bollards removed on CRD property.
- All of the portions of the Lochside trail that are shared road (with vehicles) are serviced by Saanich. The trail portions are controlled by the CRD. The bollards on this route are CRD bollards.
- Staff are able to take away the request to remove the bollards on Saanich property and seek action in the Transportation Department.
- In the parallel bike lanes with bollards, the current 1.5m are not enough space to accommodate cargo bike. 2m of protected space is needed.
- Staff noted that the CRD bollards are wide enough for a car to drive through. A measure to be considered is to widen the trail around the bollards to create a wider space for cargo bikes to pass.
- The design guidelines are less specific about which kind of bollards are recommended.

MOVED by T. Barry and seconded by C. Stepney: “That the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to Council to ask the CRD to remove the rigid bollards on the regional trails and retrofit in accordance with BC’s Active Transportation Design Guide.

The Motion was then PUT and CARRIED

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARIES FOR DRAFT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The senior transportation planner delivered a presentation on the draft Active Transportation Plan (presentation on file).

- Public engagement that was carried out included an online survey, two open houses, seven pop-up engagement events at locations around Saanich, speaking with equity-deserving groups (seniors, people with disabilities, new Canadians) and five meetings with committees.
- 475 people completed the survey from all twelve of Saanich’s neighbourhoods. Most respondents were between 30 and 49 years old. Number of respondents include: Gordon Head - 20 %, Royal Oak and Broadmead – 11%, Quadra and Carey – 7%.
- 70% of respondents were moderately or strongly supportive of the draft vision.
- Respondents noted that the proposed 2050 targets could be shortened to an earlier date or that interim goals could be added.
- Many of the comments received will be covered in the Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP).
- A summary of the comments received were noted in the presentation on file.
- Next steps include coordinating the input received and connecting with Community Associations to discuss the projects suggested in those communities.
- A final draft of the plan will be brought back to this committee before it is taken to Council in December.

Committee Discussion

- The question on the 2050 targets asked respondents to note their level of support and asked a qualitative question as a follow up.
- Most respondents asked for an acceleration of these targets.

- Consultations with equity deserving groups are in the initial stages and staff are learning how best to carry this out as they engage with residents. The groups that indicated they wanted to engage with staff were consulted. There is more work to be done on how staff are reaching out to equity deserving groups. This engagement is the start of these consultations.
- Indigenous and BOIPC groups were contact and invited to connect. Staff continue to look for ways to build connections and engage with these communities.
- The full draft will be presented to TAC in November.
- Community education on what constitutes Vision Zero would be helpful.
- Feedback on the length of the draft goals has been noted. This comes down to a question of resources and the identified priorities. This is now being affected by the rising costs of civil construction and budget increases are not keeping up.
- Staff continue to evaluate the quick build work that has been completed and the pedestrian component of this project.
- The wording of priority projects being completed “by 2030” or “by 2040” is intentional to allow staff a window for completion. Some priorities may be completed well before these targets.
- Saanich builds 30% of these projects internally with 70% being completed externally. These external projects go through an external bid process. The federal gas tax funding must be spent on externally contracted projects.

UPCOMING PRESENTATION FROM TRANSIT

- Will take place at the November TAC meeting.
- Topics for inclusion in the discussion that were discussed were:
 - Opportunity for increased bus access for students
 - Frequency and reliability of service
 - Cancellation of service when it snows

ACTION LIST DISCUSSION

Councillor Phelps Bondaroff lead an overview of the TAC Action List. Further action amongst working groups was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Councillor Phelps Bondaroff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Kirsten Brazier, Committee Secretary