

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Teale Phelps-Bondaroff (Chair), Alexandre Beaubien (4:02 p.m.), Colin Stepney, Janine Konkel, Parker Little, Rachel Corder (4:02 p.m.), Trevor Barry

Staff: Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk; Troy McKay, Senior Manager of Transportation and Development Services; and Tami Gill, Planner

Regrets: Liam Peta and Will Bowen

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by C. Stepney: “That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held October 24, 2024 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

AGENDA AMENDED

MOVED by R. Corder and Seconded by C. Stepney: “That item C.3 titled Action List, be moved to the end of the agenda.”

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members, and the following was noted:

- Committee members were thanked for their contributions this past year.
- A new member of Council will chair the committee next year.

DRAFT QUADRA MCKENZIE PLAN

The Planner presented on the Draft Quadra McKenzie Plan (QMP) (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted during committee discussion:

- Safe cycling routes could be improved in the Christmas Hill area.
- Committee members were encouraged to participate in the QMP survey.
- Community spaces are essential and should be considered when discussing increases in density.
- Children’s varied activities across the region can make taking public transportation challenging.
- Concerns were raised about side streets experiencing significant traffic increases and

bus lane disruptions due to traffic cutting in.

- It may be more effective to discuss mode share in terms of kilometers rather than trips.
- It is important for increases in density to be matched with expansions in schools, recreation centers, and other infrastructure.
- Incorporating community spaces and places for children to be active is critical for long-term planning.

The following was noted by staff in response to questions:

- Feedback received to date has emphasized the importance of conserving Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA).
- If implemented, the plan would require BC Transit to commit to the outlined service levels.
- The plan focuses on a 20-30 year horizon, with an initial emphasis on building out centers.
- Identified hubs in the plan already feature significant amenities, making them logical locations for development.
- Saanich is mandated to meet provincial housing requirements.
- The plan does not include provisions for light rail.
- The Shelbourne/McKenzie intersection is mostly built out, meaning changes in this area could happen sooner.
- Restoring a sense of community is a key aspect of the QMP.
- Network connectivity is crucial to keeping vehicles on main routes rather than diverting to residential roads.
- There is still substantial work to be done on this plan.
- BC Transit is planning a region-wide Transit Master Plan update next year.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) conducts an Origin Destination Household Travel survey every five years, breaking down mode share and trip trends in Saanich. This data is used to integrate land use frameworks and future density projections to estimate new trip levels.
- Many trips in Saanich are vehicle-based due to the lack of nearby services, reinforcing the importance of creating 15-minute communities.
- The shift to active transportation will be gradual, with vehicles remaining on the roads for the foreseeable future.

BC TRANSIT FLEET STATUS

The committee discussed the status of BC Transit's fleet, and the following was noted:

- BC Transit plans to introduce battery electric buses.
- Some BC Transit buses remain in operation after 15 years of service.
- Frequent service levels have been reduced due to a shortage of buses.
- Bus service levels should be increased to meet current and future demand.
- It was recommended that a BC Transit representative speak to the committee about this issue and the BC Transit Master Plan.

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by J. Konkol: "That the report prepared by Colin Stepney be received for information."

CARRIED

CAPITAL BIKE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PRESENTATION

The Secretary, Advocacy Co-Chair presented on Capital Bike and Saanich's Active Transportation Plan (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- A report on the acceleration of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) will be going to Council in January 2025.

MOVED by T. Barry and Seconded by J. Konkel: "That when the Engineering report on the cost of accelerating the Active Transportation Plan is received, the Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that Council support efforts to accelerate the Active Transportation, and especially give consideration to:

- 1. Fixing the gaps in the cycling network;**
- 2. Adding or improving intersection and crosswalk provisions for cyclists;**
- 3. Repositioning painted bike lanes to put cyclists between parked cars and the curb when parking is on the street; and**
- 4. Speeding up the construction of infrastructure along Quadra Street."**

The following discussion ensued:

- Incorporating connectivity and a minimum viable network into the motion is important.

MOVED by R. Corder and Seconded by T. Barry: "That the motion be amended to replace the first point with "Supporting connectivity by fixing gaps in the cycling network and building a minimum viable network."

The Amendment was CARRIED

MOVED by J. Konkel and Seconded by R. Corder: "That the motion be amended to replace the third point with "Work to eliminate conflict between bike lanes and parked vehicles."

The Amendment was CARRIED

MOVED by R. Corder and Seconded by T. Barry: "That the motion be amended to add "in full or in part" after "accelerate the ATP."

The Amendment was CARRIED

The Main Motion, as Amended, was CARRIED

Motin Motion, as Amended:

"That when Council receives the Engineering report on the cost of accelerating the Active Transportation Plan, the Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that Council support efforts to accelerate the Active Transportation, in full or in part, and especially give consideration to:

- 1. Supporting connectivity by fixing gaps in the cycling network and building a**

- minimum viable network;**
- 2. Adding or improving intersection and crosswalk provisions for cyclists;**
- 3. Work to eliminate conflict between bike lanes and parked vehicles; and**
- 4. Speeding up the construction of infrastructure along Quadra Street.”**

***The committee did not address items C.3, C.5, and C.6 due to time.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from P. Little, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk