

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held via MS Teams
Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Councillor Teale Phelps-Bondaroff (Chair), Trevor Barry, Alexandre Beaubien (4:06 p.m.), Will Bowen, Rachel Corder, Janine Konkell, Parker Little, Liam Peta and Colin Stepney

Staff: Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Development (4:34 p.m.); Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

Guest: James Coates, Capital Bike

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by C. Stepney and Seconded by A. Beaubien: “That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held November 23, 2023, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

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

- Members were introduced through a roundtable discussion.
- A brief overview of how meetings are conducted was presented.
- The Terms of Reference were discussed.
- Members were thanked for their dedicated efforts and valuable input into the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) update. Council adopted this update on January 22, 2024.
- Staff is working on compiling a report that incorporates feedback received on the schedule for implementing policies from the ATP update within the 2025 budget.
- The concept of working groups was clarified.

BIKE EDUCATION

The representative from Capital Bike gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file) and the following was noted:

- This presentation highlights the activities this past year and the potential for future programs within Saanich to help fulfill targets and plans within the ATP.
- Capital Bike works with the community and local governments to improve bike infrastructure throughout the Capital Regional District (CRD).
- Capitol Bike is a registered charity that advocates for safer and more efficient infrastructure areas for cyclists. Additionally, the organization focuses on educating the community about bike safety and organizing celebratory activities, such as “Go By Bike Week”.
- Programs are offered at low or no cost whenever funding is accessible.
- The organization comprises six full-time staff members, two co-op summer students, two casual employees, and 17 cycling instructors. It is governed by a board of 14 volunteer directors.
- “Go By Bike Week” is conducted three times a year during winter, spring, and fall. This event attracted numerous riders who stopped at celebration stations positioned along the high-traffic areas. Riders recorded 238,000 km using the online calculator.

- An estimated 52 kg of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) were prevented or offset during the event.
- The Locker Bike Valet is a program provided at popular events around the region, allowing cyclists to securely park their bikes. This service was available at events such as the Strawberry Festival, Cadboro Bay Festival, Saanich Fair, and the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. Many parking challenges were reduced, and a healthy lifestyle was encouraged. A permanent valet site is located in downtown Victoria.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Day Ride took place on September 30th, commencing at Songhees Park. This event stands out as the most well-attended group ride with over 500 cyclists.
- The "Everyone Rides Grade 4 and 5" program is supported by provincial funding, with applications made for municipal funding. Since it began in 2020, more than 9200 students have taken part. The program focuses on safety, proper helmet usage, and fundamental cycling skills.
- "Ride the Road Grade 6" is a pilot course that has had significant attendance in the CRD middle schools. The potential expansion into Saanich middle schools is a consideration for the future.
- A grant has been submitted to upgrade the celebration stations in 2024 for the 30th anniversary of "Go By Bike Week".
- Guided tours are offered to give safe usage tips on using new bike infrastructures in the region. This promotes confidence for new riders.

The committee made the following comments:

- The curriculum program implemented to educate children about bike safety could incorporate a focus on both the rights and the responsibilities of cyclists.
- Contests for classrooms where kids track their bike rides could be contemplated. Prizes such as helmets and bike bags could be offered and coordinated with "Bike to School Week".
- Maps showing safer routes off of main roads could be offered to children.

The Chair made the following comments:

- Saanich Council asked the CRD to consider removing bollards on bike trails that it oversees.
- A municipal matching fund is a way to acquire more resources and funding.
- A bike safety program offered solely through the schools hits a larger audience. A tiny safety town could be a future idea or design. Land would need to be acquired.
- A culture shift to active transportation is a goal. Universal cycling education throughout BC is key.

NOISE CAMERAS – PILOT PROJECT

The Chair provided an overview of the report (on file) and the following was noted:

- The aim of this report is for Council to request staff to explore the feasibility of launching a noise camera pilot project in the District of Saanich.
- These cameras are engineered to identify noise exceeding the limits set by the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA).
- The report details different sound levels and looks into the significant adverse effects of noise pollution on public health and well-being. Prolonged exposure to increased noise levels has been linked to increased stress, disturbances in sleep, and cardiovascular issues.
- Excessive noise pollution significantly diminishes the enjoyment of public spaces, parks, trails, and recreational areas for residents. These elevated noise levels can discourage people from enjoying these areas.
- The number of noise complaints reported to local authorities is relatively low on average. This could be because unless individuals personally witness the offending vehicle, they may lack

- the necessary information for law enforcement to act.
- Utilizing a noise camera could prove effective in obtaining real-time identification of vehicles and provides a cost-efficient solution to enforcement challenges.
- Valuable insights have been gained from noise camera pilot projects in other jurisdictions.
- The sound pressure is measured as opposed to individual voices and words.

A round table discussion ensued in response to the report and the following was noted:

- Exploring the pilot's feasibility is crucial for future success.
- Significant advancements in technology have occurred in the past 5-10 years.
- Potential setbacks may arise due to privacy issues.
- There is a need for clarification regarding the ticketing process for residents and the associated amounts.
- The pilot project has the potential to bring advantages to the rural areas of Saanich.
- Conducting research is crucial to determine the optimal placement of the cameras.
- Various community surveys have indicated widespread approval for the placement of cameras in parks and school zone areas.
- The red-light cameras currently operating in BC are monitored by the province.
- The Road Safety Action Plan draft is scheduled to be completed and presented to this committee in February 2024. Afterwards there is a six-week period for public engagement, and then a presentation of the plan to Council in May.

MOVED by J. Konkel and Seconded by R. Corder: "That the Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that Council request that staff explore and report back on the feasibility of running a noise camera pilot project in the District of Saanich."

CARRIED

VEHICLES IN BIKE LANES – SAFETY AND LOGISTICS

The committee had a round table discussion about the impacts of delivery vehicles stopping in mobility lanes and the following was noted:

- There has been a noticeable increase in logistics and delivery vehicles in Saanich. This is particularly a problem for vulnerable road users, like cyclists, buses and emergency vehicles.
- The *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) forbids delivery vehicles from stopping in mobility lanes or designated use lanes for any reason.
- Clarification of these laws is necessary for the public and businesses.
- Various municipalities in the CRD have parking permits tailored for different businesses. This could be explored in Saanich.
- Engaging the police in this conversation could be beneficial. This could be a future presentation.

The committee made the following comments:

- A culture has been created to encourage employees to prioritize speed and efficiency for financial gain.
- Incorporating sidewalks into this report could be considered.

MOVED by J. Konkel and Seconded by R. Corder: “That the Transportation Advisory Committee create a working group to explore the issue of delivery vehicles in active mobility lanes and actively seek a solution to the problem.”

The following was noted during committee discussion.

- It was noted that the Quadra McKenzie Study (QMS) is addressing these concerns for future developments in Saanich.

The Motion was then PUT and CARRIED

The following roundtable discussion ensued and the following was noted:

- Discussing snow removal on active transportation routes, is a potential agenda item for future consideration.
- Clarification of the speed reducing strategy in Saanich would be appreciated

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from R. Corder the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Teale Phelps-Bondaroff

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Secretary