

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 4:10 p.m.

Present: Councillor Teale Phelps-Bondaroff (Chair), Will Bowen and Colin Stepney

Staff: Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner; Dean Ridley, Supervisor of Bylaw and Licensing Services; and Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Rachel Corder, Parker Little, Liam Peta, Janine Konkol, Trevor Barry and Alexandre Beaubien

Due to lack of quorum, no motions were passed.

CHAIRS REMARKS

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

- The June 10th Council meeting saw several Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) resolutions brought forward by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).
- UBCM resolutions relating to traffic count systems improvements, intersection safety camera (ISC) transparency, additional ISC's at high-risk intersections, and free transit for seniors and youth were all passed by Council.
- Numerous other municipalities have shown support for the youth and senior free transportation resolutions.
- Council recently approved the second phase of the Speed Limit Establishment Policy.
- Visible speed limit signs are necessary for enforcing laws.
- The Committee may explore the Traffic Calming Policy in the fall.
- Additional signage may be necessary in accordance with the Speed Limit Establishment Policy.

BYLAW DEPARTMENT ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

The committee had a roundtable discussion with the Supervisor of Bylaw and Licensing Services, and the following was noted:

- The Bylaw Department handles tasks such as bylaw enforcement, business licensing, and parking enforcement.
- The Bylaw Department plays a significant role in the community by ensuring public safety and maintaining community standards.
- Bylaw officers operate in accordance with Bylaw Enforcement policies.
- The Bylaw Department consists of three full-time parking enforcement officers, five full-time bylaw enforcement officers, one part-time bylaw enforcement officer, one full-time business license officer, and four bylaw clerks.
- Parking Enforcement officers work between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week.
- Other Bylaw officers work during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- There have not been any formal considerations to implement a graveyard shift for Bylaw Officers. Discussions have highlighted significant concerns regarding safety, retention, and other factors that would need to be carefully addressed.

- When considering hiring a new officer, decisions depend on policy directives, workload assessments, and the availability of resources, all guided by input from senior staff and the Mayor and Council.
- For immediate concerns outside of working hours, such as those related to health, safety, and the environment, the police should be contacted. If the issue is not urgent, it could be documented and sent to the Bylaw Department for follow-up during regular working hours.
- Officers may occasionally work overtime or start early to address issues such as illegal overnight parking.
- Members of the public can submit photos to the Bylaw Department, who can then take action based on the information provided. Matters involving moving violations or criminal offenses are directed to the Police.
- Actions taken by Bylaw may include speaking with the individual, towing vehicles, or issuing fines. Bylaw generally aims to educate individuals before resorting to enforcement actions.
- The Bylaw Enforcement Policy, established in 2018, outlines the priorities and response levels for enforcement actions.
- Creating and implementing a reporting app for residents would require evaluating factors such as implementation costs, political support, community reception, privacy concerns, potential impacts, and more.
- Health, safety, and environmental concerns and infractions are of the highest priority.
- Vehicles in bike lanes are viewed as a health and safety concern.
- Bylaw officers can only address mass violations within their capacity. They gather information about the nature of the violation, consider its history, and determine appropriate actions such as education, warnings, issuing tickets, or seeking court orders, as necessary.
- Repeat situations receive escalated enforcement. Enforcing mass violations, such as those involving delivery drivers in bike lanes, can be challenging.
- Education regarding infractions effectively prevents most people from committing future infractions. A small percentage of people receive tickets, and an even smaller percentage may face court orders.
- The Bylaw Department monitors hot spots and collaborates with Engineering on parking-related issues.
- The majority of complaints are from Saanich residents or people that work in Saanich.
- The Bylaw Department has a dispute resolution process where a screening officer analyzes each case and decides whether a ticket should stand or if it can be converted to a warning or educational lesson.
- Signs in the community help members of the public stay aware of local bylaws.
- While the Bylaw Department does not receive many calls about illegally parked car share vehicles, when they do, they can contact the respective company to arrange for it to be moved.
- Enforcing resident-only parking signs poses significant challenges for enforcement staff and often requires extensive investigation.
- Addressing people sleeping in their cars presents a growing challenge that requires a balanced and compassionate approach. Each situation is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- The Bylaw Department ensures that everyone receives the appropriate warnings and education to understand and comply with the Bylaw Enforcement Policy.

The Supervisor of Bylaw and Licensing Services exited the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

ACTION LIST

The committee had a roundtable discussion about the Action List and the following was noted:

- Discussions regarding logistics and drop-offs are paused, however, community members are encouraged to report illegally parked vehicles to the Bylaw Department.

- The Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP) examines slip lanes and lanes designated for right turns.
- A Council motion regarding noise cameras has been withdrawn from the strategic planning process and is not currently being explored by Council.
- Driver education is explored in the RSAP.
- It is unclear if shared lane markings serve a purpose that improves road safety.
- Currently, there is not a significant focus on hydrogen vehicles. The committee may explore the topic of alternative energy sources for vehicles at a later date.
- Saanich's snow clearing policy is an evolving topic and may be reviewed during the Winter.
- The committee may consider discussions about amending the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) to allow cyclists to perform an 'Idaho Stop' in the future. An 'Idaho Stop' permits cyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and red lights as stop signs.
- Topics for future discussion may include prioritizing active transportation on trails, clarifying crosswalk requirements for cyclists, and exploring ways to remove taxes on active transportation equipment.
- Saanich's new bike lane sweeper, Curby, effectively clears and maintains bike lanes for active transportation users.
- The Quadra McKenzie Study (QMS) may be presented to the committee in the Fall.
- As of June 3, 2024, drivers must keep a minimum of distance of one metre on roads with speed limits of 50 km/h or less and one-and-a-half metres on roads with speed limits of 51 km/h or more when passing vulnerable road users.
- The committee would appreciate an update on Saanich's e-bike incentive program in the Fall.
- The committee will discuss parking demand management and school safety when more members are present for a comprehensive discussion.
- The committee would appreciate hearing about Saanich's future plans for curb plunking, a practice that involves installing concrete barriers along roads to buffer and protect bike lanes from car traffic.
- Bike lane usage and monitoring may be discussed in the Fall.
- An updated Action List will be distributed to members for their information and future discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be on September 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk