

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 4:02 p.m.

Present: Councillor Teale Phelps-Bondaroff (Chair), Will Bowen, Colin Stepney, Parker Little (4:07 p.m.), Janine Konkell, Trevor Barry, Alexandre Beaubien, and Rachel Corder (4:25 p.m.)

Staff: Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner; Glenys Verhulst, Sustainability Specialist (4:59 p.m.); and Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

Guests: Road Safety Advocate from Wallace Drive

Regrets: Liam Peta

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by C. Stepney and Seconded by W. Bowen: "That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held May 23, 2024 be adopted as circulated"

CARRIED

MOVED by A. Beaubien and Seconded by C. Stepney: "That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held June 27, 2024 be adopted as circulated"

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

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

- Many Saanich motions were endorsed at UBCM, including motions relating to traffic count system improvements, intersection safety camera process transparency, and free transit for youth.
- UBCM motions that are endorsed are sent to the provincial government for review.

WALLACE DRIVE ROAD SAFETY

A road safety advocate presented on road safety along Wallace Drive. The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) outlines Saanich's newest cycling infrastructure plans, including long-term planning that spans decades into the future.
- Council has requested that Saanich staff explore ways to expedite the ATP's implementation.

- Ensuring road safety on longer roads like Wallace Drive is important, though it can present financial challenges.
- Wallace Drive's safety concerns are linked to tourism, as it is a frequent route for visitors traveling to Butchart Gardens.
- The Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP) prioritizes areas with high crash rates but addressing concerns on rural roads like Wallace Drive could be more preventative, taking action before incidents occur.
- The issue of road safety on Wallace Drive, along with a petition, was brought before the Administrative Traffic Committee (ATC). Staff are working on various options that could be presented later this Fall.
- Saanich collaborates with Central Saanich on road planning where possible, as there are many examples of roads shared between municipalities.
- Public transit is not as frequent in rural Saanich, which causes people to rely on driving.
- The committee expressed interest in learning more about how Saanich places street signs, particularly in rural areas.
- The committee would appreciate hearing staff findings on this issue from the ATC once available.
- Committee members were encouraged to reapply as volunteers. The application period closes on October 25, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

***The road safety advocate from Wallace Drive left the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

E-BIKE INCENTIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

The Sustainability Specialist presented an update on the E-bike Incentive Program (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- There are income cut-offs for different rebate levels.
- Saanich collaborated with the Community Social Planning Council (CSPC) to determine low-income thresholds for the rebate program.
- The program quickly reached its funding limit, and all allocated money has been used.
- Saanich offers a range of rebate programs.
- The program successfully addressed accessibility barriers.
- Saanich has implemented safeguards, such as limiting program access to once per household.
- Income verification is done through a review of the notice of assessment for the top two income earners in a household.
- The program was accessible to participants by offering alternative ways of showing income.
- The rebate program has been transformative for many low-income individuals.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculations include the production of the e-bikes. After 300 km, e-bikes offset their manufacturing emissions.
- Although Electric Vehicles (EV) have significant manufacturing emissions initially, they still lead to a net reduction in GHG emissions over the vehicle's lifetime.
- The e-bike incentive program has not shown a significant reduction in vehicle ownership rates, though this may change over time.
- Encouraging youth to use transit and active transportation helps build healthy habits.
- Data on minor usage of e-bikes is not available, as the program is only open to those 19+.

- The program application included a question regarding shared usage of e-bikes within a household.
- The program required participants to purchase from specific retailers to ensure high-quality e-bikes with warranties, while also encouraging them to buy locally for easier access to repairs.

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION INCENTIVES

The committee discussed the working group on road safety education incentives, and the following was noted:

- The working group will meet on October 17, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Saanich Municipal Hall to discuss road safety education incentives.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned from a motion by T. Barry at 6:01 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be on October 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk