

MINUTES
SAANICH BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM #2
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2006, AT 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman in the Chair *
Members: J. Gaylord, J. Grayson, A. Murdoch; N. Neate, D. DeShane, P. Shatzko D. Wick.
Staff: A. Topp, Manager of Community Planning, Mike Lai, Manager of Transportation; Gerald Fleming, Parks Department; Constable Brajcich, Police Department; Isobel Hoffmann, Sr. Committee Clerk.
Guests: John Luton

The Meeting began informally until the Chair arrived.*

MINUTES

Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting held February 8, 2006 was deferred to the next meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES – Mike Lai

Installation of Bike Lanes on McKenzie from Borden to Blenkinsop

- This is a priority item for completion this year but has been stalled due to property acquisition issues.
- Funding from the 2005 budget as well as some federal grant funding has been carried forward.

CENTENNIAL TRAILS UPDATE – Gerald Fleming

- A Centennial Trails Update meeting will be held on March 7, 2006 at Prospect Lake School, showing the plans for the Interurban Rail Trail, stages 1 and 2.
- Hopefully the graphic designer will have the plans completed within the next two weeks for the Blenkinsop Trail. There is more settlement than originally thought, but it is hoped to complete the work by the end of March so we can use funding from the 2005/06 asphalt contract; after that period new contract prices are in effect. Ground testing is continuing over the next two weeks.
- Work is continuing on the Royal Oak sections of the trail; the design should be completed within the next four weeks.
- Weather permitting, construction crews will start on the Glendale trail in a couple of weeks.
- A meeting is being held next week to review submissions for the Public Art component of the trails and hopefully a decision will be made.
- Sign locations still have to be decided for the trails; the signs will include regional and neighbourhood maps and information about the number of partners on the project.
- An open house is being planned for the San Juan greenway, probably late April or early May.
- As far as the Centennial Trails project goes, the completion goal is July 1st.

SAFETY BIKE CLOTHING AND REFLECTORS ON BIKES – Daryl Wick

- Further to discussions at the last meeting regarding the fatal accident involving a cyclist on Richmond Road, Mr. Wick suggested that letters be sent to bike clothing

manufacturers to encourage them to produce reflective clothing to improve safety for cyclists at night.

- Noted that all outdoor wear clothing manufacturers should be included, not just those to make bicycle clothing.
- Many cyclists ride at night without proper illumination on their bikes. Suggested that we ask Council to write to the Attorney General to request the Motor Vehicle Act be amended to require that reflectors should meet a certain standard and all bikes be equipped with these devices.
- The police could issue warning tickets for improperly equipped bikes, give the owner a time limit to get reflectors or lights installed; if this is not carried out, then a fine is issued.
- Some members noted that even if manufacturers were required to install reflectors, this would not prevent people from removing them. Not all cyclists ride at night.
- Accidents are not always the fault of the driver; there needs to be a balance and cyclists should be responsible for wearing appropriate clothing, a helmet, and ensuring their bikes are properly equipped.
- Cst. Brajich stated it is very difficult to make changes to the Motor Vehicle Act, and the courts are also concerned with “double jeopardy” issues when it comes to writing warning tickets and then issuing a fine for the same offence and holding someone accountable.

STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE – Mike Lai

- Current practice is to focus on major and collector roads and ensure they are swept at least three or four times a year.
- Residential roads have a lower priority and may only get swept once a year.
- Roads with curbs and gutters are swept annually as well.
- On top of regular schedules, Staff responds to complaints and requests.
- Funding is the main issue why roads are not swept more frequently.
- Consequently, additional funding has been requested to increase the schedule to ensure roads are being swept 12 months of the year as opposed to 10.
- Developers are required to clear construction debris from the streets.
- The recent high winds have created a lot of debris in the bike lanes. Mt. Douglas park area has been particularly difficult and large branches have to be removed by hand.

Comments noted:

- It is not that Public Works is inefficient; they are doing the best they can.
- We need to send a clear message to Council that the budget needs to be increased.
- Having debris in the bike lanes is extremely dangerous for cyclists.
- Questioned whether vehicles could be rented from the Ministry of Transportation to pick up the larger debris after windstorms rather than doing it by hand, which is labour intensive.
- As well as Mt. Douglas area, West Saanich Road and Royal Oak Drive have persistent problems.
- In recognition that there is not an endless supply of funding, it was noted that cyclists have to be aware of the dangers and exercise caution at all times.

***** Councillor Derman entered the meeting at 4:40 p.m. *****

- Perhaps instead of increasing the budget, reallocating priorities to address bike lanes in critical areas should be considered rather than focusing on residential streets that are not well used commuter routes.
- The Chair agreed to talk with the Manager of Public Works about prioritizing certain streets for sweeping. If this proves unsuccessful, then perhaps Council should be requested to consider additional operating funds.

ELECTRIC ASSISTED BICYCLES – Reconsideration of Motion to the CRD

Councillor Derman stated:

- Prior to the scheduled Council meeting when the Motion was to be considered, some Councillors expressed concern about the term “disabled”. He withdrew the Motion from the Agenda and agreed to bring it back to the committee for further consideration.
- Perhaps we should encourage the CRD to find more ways to ensure universal accessibility to the trails and consider motor-assisted bikes or other vehicles, perhaps with a maximum allowable speed so as to prevent mopeds, etc.
- Council does not necessarily have to approve the Motion – we can simply ask Council to forward the Motion to the CRD Parks.

John Luton advised that the Victoria Transportation Committee reviewed the issue also. and suggested that the CRD implement the controls on a trial basis so there is an opportunity for review. They also suggested that electric assisted bikes not have an internal combustion engine. According to the Motor Vehicle Act, any electric assisted bike that tops a speed of 32km/h is classified as a vehicle.

Moved by Mr. Wick and Seconded by Ms. Shatzko: “That Council be requested to forward the following Motion to the CRD for consideration:

That as part of the CRD’s review of the current policy regarding electric assisted bikes, the Bicycle Advisory Committee would encourage the CRD to ensure universal accessibility to the trails, noting that some pedal assisted electric bikes may be appropriate for trail use.”

Carried.

CYCLING 2010 – An Infrastructure of Excellence – Darrell Wick

- The Committee needs some long-range goals and 2010 seems to be a good focus.
- There are grant monies available related to 2010 and he believes this is an excellent opportunity to recognize cycling in Victoria.
- We could join forces with external groups, form partnerships, seek funding, review the current infrastructure and the bike commuter network, emphasize unique projects and demonstrate our successes.
- Many other areas do not have local connectors or directional way signs.
- The Centennial Trails project could be a separate item and the Regional Growth Strategy could also be part of the focus.
- We need some political ownership to champion this cause.

Councillor Derman agreed this was an excellent suggestion and suggested that a working group be formed to do some preliminary investigation and bring a report back to

the Committee. Darrel Wick, Neal Neate and John Luton agreed to form a working group and report back.

CO-OPERATIVE STUDY WITH UVIC

- UVIC has a Traffic Demand Management Programme and over the past five years, the number of cars has been reduced, BC Transit ridership has increased but the use of bicycles has also dropped.
- The argument could be made that some cyclists use the bus, maybe because of the UPass. A committee member noted that in his opinion there are no cycling experts on UVIC's transportation committee to determine if there are barriers preventing students cycling to UVIC.
- Mr. Wick suggested that a survey be conducted to find out why there is a reduction in the number of cyclists.
- The Planner noted that for that past couple of years, all new buildings on the campus have been equipped with shower and bike lock facilities.
- Noted work is still being done on the local connectors to UVIC.
- Perhaps there is not enough promotion of the cycling routes on campus.
- John Luton noted that UVIC transportation committee has an internal focus.
- It would be a good idea if the BAC could work cooperatively with the UVIC committee to encourage cycling to and from UVIC.
- He agreed to raise the topic at the next UVIC transportation committee meeting and report back.
- Noted that often fashion is one of the barriers: eg: helmet hair, clothing, etc.
- We need to push for bike lanes on McKenzie, and UVIC's support will be helpful.
- All major destinations should be looked at, not just UVIC, such as Camosun College, shopping centres, etc. Agreed this issue needs further discussion at a future meeting and a survey of the major destinations could be part of Bike to Work Week.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT – Change to format and updates

Copies of the follow-up report were distributed; members and staff were asked to update areas where they can and pass the information to the secretary, so that an up-to-date and useable document can be prepared for the Committee. The secretary will email a copy to members.

ROYAL OAK SENIORS' HOUSING PROJECT

Mr. Wick stated that Council discussed the new seniors centre in Royal Oak in December. Because the residents will be 65 years and older, the developer requested a reduction in the bicycle parking. However, many people over 65 still ride bikes. He felt this type of issue should be considered by the Committee.

Councillor Derman advised the application will be considered at a Public Hearing next week and suggested that committee members attend and speak to the matter. He

agreed that many people over 65 are active, and if we are concerned with maintaining the health of our seniors, we must continue to provide the proper infrastructure.

Mr. Wick stated he would prefer a formal Motion be sent to Council indicating the Committee does not support the reduction in bicycle parking. Visitors to the site, and staff, should also be a consideration.

Moved by Mr. Murdoch and Seconded by Ms. Gaylord: “That Council be advised that the Bicycle Advisory Committee is opposed to any reduction in cycling storage or bicycle parking requirements for the seniors’ housing complex at 4530 and 4536 Viewmont Avenue, and for all future seniors’ developments.”

Carried

The Planner noted that amendments to the Zoning Bylaw should be considered to include a requirement for scooter parking in addition to bicycle parking. Scooters need to be recharged, and at present people have to use extension cords.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN MAP 10.2

The Planner stated that Map 10.2 in the OCP shows the major planning routes for potential and future bike lanes; it does not record the connector routes. The Commuter Bike Network shows what is actually constructed. Because the OCP is a policy document, it does not get updated annually. The Centennial Trails plan was added as a supporting document to the OCP.

Committee discussion noted the following:

- The interface of the recreational network and the commuter bike network are two different things, but somehow they have to be integrated. For example, the Colquitz system is a trail, but it can link to a commuter network. The Centennial Trail is the same thing.
- The trail systems will be an important component when considering destination points.
- Agreed it would be beneficial to have a map overlay to determine the existing and proposed routes at the same time, as well as the recreational trails and local connectors.

The Park Planning & Design Manager noted that his staff is working closely with Engineering on the GIS mapping system, and it will hopefully be completed this summer. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

BICYCLE AWARDS

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Committee was no longer interested in the programme, and that it is something better handled through the Bike to Work Week group.

MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair stated that due a restructuring of CRD Committees, there could be a conflict with the 4:00 p.m. BAC meeting time for the next month or two. It is unlikely that he will be able to get to the BAC meeting before 4:45 p.m. Changing the date of the meeting was not viable due to a shortage of meeting space and administrative support. It was suggested that a Vice Chair be appointed in the interim and that the matter be revisited in two months to ascertain whether a time change is warranted.

Moved by Jim Grayson and Seconded by Judy Gaylord: "That Darrell Wick be nominated as Vice Chair."

There were no other nominations and Mr. Wick accepted the appointment.

The Motion was then Put and Carried.

The Chair asked members to email him items they wished discussed on the Agenda. Regarding meeting schedules, the Chair advised that the Committee will meet on a monthly basis rather than semi-monthly. We can assess the situation in a few months.

Next Meeting: The next BAC meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 22, 2006** at 4:00 p.m in Committee Room No. 2.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are a true and accurate recording of the meeting.

Recording Secretary