

MINUTES  
**SAANICH BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
COMMITTEE ROOM #2  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2006 AT 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman  
Members: D. De Shane; J. Gaylord, J. Grayson, A. Murdoch;  
Staff: Murray Walker, Engineering; Gerald Fleming, Parks Department;  
Isobel Hoffmann, Sr. Committee Clerk.  
Guests: John Luton

---

**MINUTES: April 26, 2006**

**Moved by Mr. De Shane and Seconded by Mr. Grayson: 'That the Minutes of the meeting held April 26, 2006 be adopted.'**

**Carried.**

**CENTENNIAL TRAILS UPDATE**

**Interurban Trail (Wallace at West Saanich)**

Mr. Fleming stated:

- In response to comments from the BAC, the Steering Group took another look at the site and agreed that at this time a parking lot will not be included in the plans.
- Space will be left at the site and if it is determined there is a high demand for parking, staff will reconsider.
- The trail has been located as far from the main road as possible.

Comments were noted as follows:

- All agreed it was a positive move not to include the parking at this time, but there is still concern about crossing the intersection.
- This is an identical situation to the Prospect Lake/West Saanich intersection and should be treated the same way.

Mr. Fleming advised this project is viewed as a work in progress; this year, Engineering is intending to install an intersection control light at the Interurban/West Saanich intersection. Because the trail is not completed, we don't know what kind of problems we will be dealing with, it will be monitored.

The Chair pointed out the Committee has a Motion on the table indicating it is dissatisfied with the proposed trail design at the Wallace/West Saanich intersection and the proposed parking area. In view of the recent decision by staff, he suggested the Motion be withdrawn. *(see page 4 of April 26, 2006 minutes)*

**MOTION:**

**Moved by Mr. De Shane and Seconded by Mr. Grayson: "That the Motion on the table be withdrawn."**

**Carried.**

**Moved by Mr. Grayson and Seconded by Mrs. Gaylord: "That the BAC supports the decision to not include an official designated parking lot at the Wallace Drive/West Saanich Road intersection, and requests that any future plans for a parking lot in this location be brought to the BAC for comment."**

**Carried.**

**Interurban Rail Trail – Stage 2**

- Stage 2 of the project has gone out to tender.
- Stage 1 has been revisited; staff are considering using a compacted 6.35 mm trail blend as a surface option and will try this in a few test areas. This blend has been used for other trails (Glendale for example), and the community seems to be happy with it.
- No firm conclusions have been made; staff will report at the next meeting.

**Trail Signs**

Mr. Fleming stated:

- The graphic designer and staff are still working on the matrix for the signs.
- He displayed a copy of the map for the Centennial Trail interpretive signs.
- Staff is developing neighbourhood map signs and relief maps for the Peninsula.
- The neighbourhood maps will be on the back of the regional map.
- He hopes the graphic designer will have completed the work so examples can be brought to the next meeting.
- In response to comments from the Committee, Mr. Fleming stated he will check on the correct position of the north arrow, and noted there will be a key and some major destination points (ie: Matticks Farm) on the maps.
- Staff have concerns about highlighting commercial centres; but some locations should be okay.

The Chair stated:

- A meeting has been scheduled for early next week with the CRD Parks Department and he suggested that Mr. Fleming should attend.
- He raised the issue about consistency of trail signs with the Chair of the CRD Parks Committee, noting that we are missing an opportunity to standardize signage and make it informative and useful for residents and tourists.
- The Lochside and Galloping Goose Trails pass through many jurisdictions and it would be beneficial if the CRD could be a central coordinating agency for trail signs.

**Mann Avenue/Viewmont and Lindsey**

Mr. Fleming stated:

- Paving has been completed on Viewmont to Lindsay and trail construction using the new trail blend is now continuing on Lindsay up to Mann Avenue.
- Because of the inability to come to a consensus on the Mann Avenue crossing at the Colquitz Trail, the work will be postponed.
- There is a second phase of the Centennial Trails project scheduled for 2007 to 2009 and this crossing will be reviewed at that time.

The Committee again reiterated their concerns about the safety of curb bulges and the potential conflict for cyclists, particularly recreational cyclists, having to use regular traffic lanes instead of designated bike lanes.

**Blenkinsop Road/Mt. Douglas X Road**

Mr. Fleming stated:

- This section of the trail is 98% completed.
- The Mt. Douglas/Blenkinsop Road crossing has a few safety issues; stop signs will be installed on both sides of Blenkinsop so cyclists or pedestrians see a proper stop required.

- Yield signs will be installed at Braefoot and a yield or a stop sign at the corner of Glendenning and Mt. Douglas X Road.

Concern was noted about installing yield signs; the CRD has removed some yield signs and replaced them with stop signs which they found worked much better. Mr. De Shane advised there is a blind spot just west of the Glendenning/Mt. Douglas X Road intersection; it would help if the vegetation was trimmed back. Engineering and Parks agreed to review the proposed signage plan for the area and look into the blind spot as well.

### **Gordon Head Coastal Greenway**

Mr. Fleming stated this is part of the Centennial Trails network and he hopes to show the plans to the Committee in June. The greenway route will be identified with signs.

The Committee noted:

- Two areas of concern for safe crossing are San Juan at Shelbourne, and Tyndall Park at San Juan.
- The vegetation at the end of Winchester Road at Mt. Douglas Park needs trimming.

### **CYCLING 2010 – An Infrastructure of Excellence**

John Luton stated:

- The sub-committee has not met on this matter yet; he hoped to provide a report soon.
- He received a call from the City of Monkton, Ontario about the Fort Street project – changing from four traffic lanes to three and including bike lanes on either side.
- Monkton is considering a similar project and have faced many objections. He is considering putting information on a website about the success of the project and how it was achieved.
- He noted that Saanich has many unique groundbreaking examples as well which should be profiled, illustrating the leadership role that Saanich has taken.
- He will bring some information to the June meeting.

### **CRD SWITCH BRIDGE KIOSK – MAPS**

The Chair stated:

- He met with Lloyd Rushton, CRD, regarding opportunities for trail signage throughout the region.
- The CRD does not have experience in managing transportation systems and the Lochside and Galloping Goose trails have been a new experience for them.
- Trails are not a park issue and they are more than just recreational areas – people use them as multi-modal commuter links.
- The trails have a huge potential for the economy and tourism.
- He hopes to meet with the CRD next week and he will report back at the June meeting.

**MOTORIZED SCOOTERS IN BIKE LANES  
(Article in Saanich News, May 17, 2006)**

Councillor Derman stated:

- It appears the CRD will allow electric assisted bicycles, as defined under provincial legislation, on the trails.
- The bikes are permitted to a maximum speed of 32 km/h, and size of the motor allowed is regulated also. The motor stops if you stop pedaling – which is different from mopeds and other power bikes.
- It does not appear that there will be any expansion of this type of use any time soon.
- As the population ages, motorized scooter use will increase and this is a growing issue that must be carefully considered.
- As seniors lose their driver's licenses or are otherwise unable to drive, they turn to uses scooters as a way of retaining some independence.
- Perhaps education rather than legislation is needed.
- Should the owners be licenced and should they be allowed to use bike lanes?
- Areas with seniors residences do not necessarily have the infrastructure to support the increase motorized scooter use (ie: Cedar Hill and Cedar Hill X Road area which has a high senior population, but the sidewalks are not wide enough to accommodate scooters and pedestrians and in some areas they are in very poor condition, or with telephone poles in the middle).

Discussion noted that this matter should be a Council decision; it is not within the BAC's purview. Perhaps an inter-municipal task force should be struck to consider motorized scooter use on roads and trails and make recommendations. Consideration should be given to the required infrastructure and design standards for scooters and electric wheelchairs when developing seniors' residences as well as other developments (shopping centres).

**MOTION:**

**Moved by Mr. Murdoch and Seconded by Mr. Grayson: "That a letter be drafted recommending that an intermunicipal task force be established to review the issue of motorized scooter safety, trail use, infra-structure and design standards, and that the draft letter be reviewed by the Committee at the next meeting."**

**CARRIED.**

**FOLLOW-UP REPORT**

Mr. Wick had offered at the last meeting to take on the task of keeping the Follow-Up Report up to date. Some of the issues on the list have been discussed by the Committee several times, and many of them are issues that require comments or action from the Engineering and/or Parks Departments. Staff to review the report and advise at the June meeting which items can be crossed off the list. Agreed that one or two of the remaining items be discussed each month.

**CRD – NEW TRANSIT COMMITTEE**

The Chair advised that a new CRD committee has been approved to review regional transportation issues.

- Presently, each municipality has its own Engineering and Planning Departments responsible for local roads; BC Transit for transit services, and the province for highways. There is no one authority to look at transit issues on a regional basis and consider the effects of developments.
- CRD staff reported to the Planning and Emergency Services Committee last month suggesting a new committee be structured to make recommendations to the Board regarding the implementation of the Travel Choices study.
- Information has been requested from municipal engineering departments, the Ministry of Transportation and BC Transit.
- It is possible he will Chair this new committee, which will also include Councillors from other municipalities; working groups or citizen advisory groups may be formed from this committee.
- He will report further at the next meeting.

**BC TRANSIT – Rapid Bus – Douglas Street Corridor**

- The Chair stated he will ask Mike Davis from BC Transit to attend the June meeting to provide an overview on BC Transit's proposal for a dedicated bus right-of-way from downtown Douglas Street to the Town and Country Shopping Centre, and discuss what is being planned to accommodate cyclists.
- A rapid bus service is proposed from Town and Country to the Western Communities and to Sidney (Ferries and the Airport).
- BC Transit has been working on the planning process for the project for the past six months and has acquired funding through the gas rebate programmes offered by the Federal government.
- The amount received will increase over the next five years from 1 cent per litre to 5 cents per litre. Saanich's allocation was approximately \$870,000 last year. At the end of five years, the contribution should be over \$4 million.
- Municipalities receive a 50% share directly; the remaining 50% is allocated through a central control pool to be used for transportation-oriented projects applied for by regional districts on a competitive basis.
- Because there is not a designated regional authority for transit issues, BC Transit has taken the lead and applied for funding in partnership with the CRD to the Strategic Priorities Fund.
- Computer synchronization of traffic signals between Saanich, Victoria, and the Ministry of Transportation along the corridor is being investigated to allow buses priority at certain signals.
- BC Transit has completed a traffic study indicating there will be little effect on the east/westbound traffic flow, although there will be some implications for left turn traffic on Douglas Street.

Discussion noted that on the BC Transit website, the possibility of using the Galloping Goose trail as a possible LRT corridor is mentioned, with the bike lanes remaining, and proposing bike stalls at the stations. There was concern about the potential impact on cyclists.

The Chair acknowledged there has been discussion recently about this – but it is an expensive proposal compared to a rapid bus system. A number of groups have been actively pursuing this proposal and the Planning and Transportation Committee will be hearing presentations from two separate groups at their May and June meetings. He can arrange for a presentation for the September BAC meeting if there is a desire.

**Note: After the meeting, Mike Davis (BC Transit) was contacted and confirmed he was unable to attend the June BAC meeting, but would be available for September.**

**WALLACE DRIVE**

Dave de Shane stated:

- He was concerned about the lack of coordination of cycling signage on the Peninsula but this may be addressed through the newly formed CRD transportation committee.
- CRD Parks are only interested in off-road facilities such as the Lochside Trail.
- There is still potential to upgrade cycling facilities on rights-of-way and bike lanes through Central and North Saanich – such as providing good connections and grades.
- There has been no encouragement for the other municipalities to identify the need for bike lanes on many routes; ie: the rail right-of-way through Elk/Beaver Lake, or Oldfield Road to Veyaness. Some of these routes are very narrow and need improvement.
- There needs to be an overall plan in place so that when new infrastructure is planned, bike lanes can be part of the process.

Councillor Derman noted that the new transportation committee passed by a narrow margin at the CRD Board meeting and it will be up to the directors who sit on the committee what steps are taken and in what direction the committee moves.

- The mandate of the Travel Choices Study is to increase the mode shift from the car to other means.
- He hoped the committee will form a sub-group to look at cycling infrastructure throughout the region – this has never been done.
- There are no regional cycling initiatives – yet.

Next Meeting: The next regular BAC meeting will be held **on Wednesday, June 28, 2006** at 4:00 p.m., Committee Room No. 2

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

.....  
Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are correct

.....  
Recording Secretary