

MINUTES
SAANICH BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM #1
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007 AT NOON

Present: Chair: Councillor Judy Brownoff
Members: Dave De Shane; Judy Gaylord; James Grayson; Neil Neate; John Smith;
Pam Shatzko and D. Wick.
Staff: Mike Lai, Manager of Transportation; Anne Topp, Manager of Community
Planning; Mike Goldsworth, Parks Planning Designer; Daryl Yuen, Engineering
Technician IV; and, MaryAnn Greco, Senior Committee Clerk
Regrets: Sarah Webb

MINUTES

MOVED by D. DeShane and Seconded by D. Wick: "That the minutes of the meeting held February 15, 2007 be adopted as amended."

Carried.

PROPOSED GREENWAYS FOR THE BOWKER CREEK WATERSHED

The Manager of Community Planning displayed a map of the proposed greenways for the Bowker Creek Watershed. She advised that the Bowker Creek Initiative Steering Committee established a Greenways Sub-Committee to investigate greenways that would provide connections between municipalities and major urban centres identified in the Regional Growth Strategy. This is a long range plan. The membership of the Greenways Sub-Committee includes representatives from the City of Victoria, District of Saanich and District of Oak Bay. She questioned whether the Bowker Creek group should be extending out of their watershed to come down to Inverness Park. She is looking for comments to go back to the sub-committee to finalize and then take it to the internal steering committee and then to the municipalities.

The Committee reviewed the map and noted the following:

- The local connector from the Cedar Hill Golf Course to the University of Victoria by Shelbourne Plaza should be included in the map.
- The map is concise and easy to follow.
- It is great to get from the Gordon Head area without using Shelbourne Street.
- There is a need to bring people from the trail to the north parallel to Shelbourne Street to Hillside Mall and from the south to Hillside Mall.

The Manager of Community Planning stated that these are proposed greenways and does not negate the possibility of bicycle lanes on Shelbourne Street in the future.

The Manager of Transportation advised that there maybe an additional lit crossing at Hillside in the future into the parking lot at Hillside Mall.

REPORT FROM ROAD CONVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE

D. DeShane circulated a sub-committee report on possible road conversion projects for the Committee's consideration. He advised that he met with John Smith and Darrell Wick with the purpose to identify roads where bicycle lanes could be added with re-striping and with none to minimal road work required. This report will provide some direction to the Engineering Department on an annual basis to prepare plans and budget estimates. The projects have been divided into several categories including high priority, high to medium priority, medium priority, low priority and other.

In response to questions from the Committee, D. Wick advised that the existing cycling infrastructure is mostly on the west side of the Municipality. The Gordon Head area has the least and there are many opportunities where roads can be re-striped. The proposed road conversion projects are for bicycle lanes on both sides of the street. In reviewing possible road conversion projects with the sub-committee, it would have been helpful to have a map which shows both the bicycle commuter network and the existing local connectors on one map.

Motion: MOVED by D. DeShane and Seconded by D. Wick: "That the report by the Road Conversion Sub-Committee dated March 1, 2007 on proposed road conversion projects be approved and referred to the Engineering Department for a report back to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee."

Carried.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Manager of Transportation stated:

- Bicycle lanes on both sides of Blenkinsop Road from McKenzie Avenue to Mt Douglas X Road have been identified in the Engineering Department's budget for this year.
- The bicycle lanes will be installed within the existing pavement structure with some minor road widening only at McKenzie Avenue.
- It will be a dual-purpose paved shoulder shared with pedestrians and cyclists.

D. Wick suggested that appropriate signage should be used to indicate it is a shared facility.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

The Chair circulated a copy of the Engineering Department's Transportation Section of the budget. She stated that the intent is that the Engineering Department provide this on an annual basis as well as the Parks Department for the Committee's information.

CRD SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL CHOICES STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

The Chair stated the CRD Committee on Travel Choices will be setting up two sub-committees on Travel Demand Management and Pedestrian and Cycling. When the terms of reference for the sub-committees are set up she will be asking for a volunteer from the BiPed Committee to sit on these sub-committees and report back.

STATUS REPORT ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS – ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Manager of Transportation provided a status report on the following items:

No Exit (Except Cyclists) Signs – The Engineering Department have not yet looked at the 'No Exit Signs' item and are having some issues with the size.

D. Wick stated that the Sign Shop is currently preparing to do 50 'No Exit' signs with the design that the Committee has determined to be too small and hard to read. Perhaps the Sign Shop could put a hold on preparing these 'No Exit' signs and present a new design for the Committee's consideration with the idea that they could eventually be used by other jurisdictions as well.

The Manager of Transportation advised that he will look into this matter further and report back at a future meeting.

Interurban Rail Trail On-Road Signage – The Engineering Department will confirm the sign type used in Central Saanich and make efforts to produce the sign and install them this year.

Street Sweeping - The Engineering Department has hired a second sweeper to assist the existing one. Road crews have been working with the Parks Department to look after the large debris which is now complete. The sweeper can now go out on the major and collector roads and the additional sweeper can focus on residential areas.

Cordova Bay Road – Sidewalk Project - Phase 2 – Daryl Yuen, Engineering Technician IV, displayed the plans for the sidewalk project on Cordova Bay Road from Maxine Lane to Galey Way. He stated that the first phase is construction of the bicycle lanes to Sunnygrove Terrace on the west side of Cordova Bay Road only. Due to budget constraints, they are looking at other surface options other than concrete to complete to Galey Way as a temporary solution. There are right-of-way constraints and grade issues with driveways so northbound cyclists will use a shared lane. Lochside Trail is parallel and not too far away.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Engineering Technician IV stated:

- There is no room for parking bays as the driveways are close together.
- If there is a utility pole that can not be moved the sidewalk will be widened out.
- This project will be completed this year.
- Consideration will be given to erecting shared road signs.
- This is no separated sidewalk because of the presence of steep driveways.

The Chair requested the Engineering Department pay special attention to the grade at the end of the sidewalk so there is no bump for wheelchair users and scooters.

Pedestrian Priorities Implementation Plan – The Manager of Transportation stated that the final technical report is now available in the Councillor's Office and the Engineering Department. Given the highly technical nature of this document it would be advisable to direct any questions to staff in the Engineering Department. The cost to undertake the high priority items are between \$12 – \$15 million so there are many projects to undertake before the medium-high priority list of items. This is a living document and as the landscape of Saanich changes so will this plan. The Plan is purely a technical and objective tool to assist in the developing the sidewalk capital construction program based on the ranking factors.

STREETSCAPE SAFETY PRIORIZATION PROCESS

The Chair circulated a copy of a report to Mayor and Council dated March 8, 2007 from the Director of Engineering regarding the Streetscape Safety and Prioritization Process and outlined the projects scheduled for 2007 for the Committee’s information.

MAP SIGNS – ROYAL OAK/LOCHSIDE REGIONAL TRAIL

Mike Goldsworth, Parks Planning Designer displayed the proposed sign design for the Royal Oak/Lochside Regional Trail for the Committee’s comment. He stated that this design could also be used for other trail routes such as the Seaside Touring Route, the Coastal Greenway and the Cycling Touring Route.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- The map should include all of the local connectors and distance in kilometers.
- The Neighbourhood Map should include the distance in minutes.
- Include a “You Are Here” on the Major Trail Route map.
- The Neighbourhood Map should include a north arrow.
- The size of the Neighbourhood Map is appropriate.
- Inclusion of major destinations such as Saanich Commonwealth Place and the Broadmead Shopping Centre would be beneficial.
- Include arrows to indicate whether it is uphill or downhill.
- The design is easy to read and the size is appropriate.

COMPLETION OF CENTENNIAL TRAIL - INTERURBAN RAIL TRAIL SECTION

D. Wick congratulated the Parks Department on the completion of the Centennial Trails portion of the Interurban Rail Trail. He stated that both he and Pam Shatzo separately rode the trail and both were pleased with how it turned out. The surface of the trail near the Red Barn is better however there are other portions of the trail where the surface product is different and not ideally suitable for thinner bike tires, perhaps this can be discussed at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: The next regular BIPED meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, April 19, 2007 in Committee Room No. 2.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary