

MINUTES
SAANICH BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM #2
THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007 AT NOON

Present: Chair: Councillor Judy Brownoff
Members: Cst. B. Brajcich; Dave De Shane; Judy Gaylord; James Grayson; Neil Neate;
and Pam Shatzko
Staff: Mike Lai, Manager of Transportation; Anne Topp, Manager of Community
Planning; Gerald Fleming, Park Planning & Design Manager; Sharon Hvozdzanski,
Planning Supervisor and MaryAnn Greco, Senior Committee Clerk
Regrets: John Smith, Sarah Webb and Darrell Wick
Guests: John Luton, Executive Director, Capital Bike and Walk Society

MINUTES

MOVED by J. Grayson and Seconded by P. Shatzko: "That the minutes of the meeting held April 19, 2007 be adopted as circulated."

Carried.

2007 OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (GENERAL PLAN) REVIEW

The Chair stated that at the previous meeting, Darrell Wick circulated a memorandum to Mayor and Council dated December 22, 1998 which including a submission by the former Saanich Citizens' Advisory Transportation Committee on proposed changes to the General Plan. The CATC's submission was part of a workshop on a 'Vision for Saanich' at the time. Subsequent to the CATC's submission, the Manager of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning sent a follow-up memorandum supporting the CATC's comments and offered further recommendations. These two documents were included in the agenda package. She asked the Committee to provide feedback on these documents and brainstorm on any other additions or changes.

The Committee made the following comments:

- The General Plan was adopted in 1993 and has not gone through a review since then; the CATC's suggestions are still valid and should be forwarded to the Planning Department.
- The use of maps and way finding signs should be promoted; it encourages people to walk and cycle by providing helpful direction.
- The suggestions in the memo from the Manager of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning should also be forwarded to the Planning Department.
- Major centres should be included and made accessible for all users such as wider sidewalks.
- All cycling and pedestrian improvements should be referred to the Saanich Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee for comment; although this is already a policy it has not always been the case.
- The 1.5 m standard bike lane width should be re-evaluated, the City of Victoria and other municipalities are trying to increase this to 1.7 or 1.8 m.
- Mobility scooters should be included.
- Section D. 7 should be amended as 'secondary roads' was an old classification; the classifications are now 'residential', 'collector' or 'major' roads.
- Cycling safety and road safety should be added in section D. Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic and not just promoted in the schools but to the public in general.

- Perhaps Section D. 4 should be amended to read: 'Increase the walking environment as a means of transportation...'; the intent is to encourage walking and also make it enjoyable for pedestrians once they reach their destination.
- Section D. 7 should be amended to include crossings as they need to be made safer particularly in the vicinity of the Galloping Goose Trail.
- The impact of school closures should be examined and reflected in Saanich's policies; half of school sites are considered greenspaces for Saanich and have trails or walkway potential.
- Funding is provided for Safe Routes to School and then it is closed and it is for not so we need to look at that.
- Climate change also needs to be addressed.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Chair requested the Manager of Transportation research the standard bike lane widths including how the width is measured and the circumstances of when it should be decreased such as in the situation of trees, etc. She also requested that the Committee's comments, the CATC's submission and the memorandum from the Manager of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning be forwarded the Planning Department for inclusion in the General Plan review.

The Planning Supervisor advised that a draft of the General Plan will be submitted to the Committee in October for further review.

TRAIL BOLLARDS

Reconsideration of the motion made at the October 25, 2006 meeting of the former Saanich Bicycle Advisory Committee.

The Chair stated that at the October 25, 2006 meeting of the former Bicycle Advisory Committee the issue of bollards placed at the access to paved trails was discussed and a motion was made to Council recommending that a trial to determine the effectiveness of trail bollards be considered. The motion was not forwarded to Mayor and Council and she suggested that this item be dealt with at the staff level. The Parks and Recreation and Engineering Departments are already examining the use of bollards and other safety issues and will be preparing a report. The CRD Parks Department should also be involved in these discussions.

The Park Planning and Design Manager advised that there have been some meetings on this issue. One idea is that if you recognize the regional trail system as a transportation corridor then the cyclist might be seen to have the right-of-way and then the value of bollards could be re-examined. There are however, instances where motorists go onto the trail with cars so this needs to be taken into consideration so that a new problem is not created.

Mr. Luton stated that the draw back of bollards, like the section south of the Switch Bridge is that they send a message to the trail user that the trail is the minor. There are communities which have dispensed of bollards altogether without sacrificing the functionality of the trail or increased risk exposure hazards. Madison, Wisconsin no longer uses bollards and they have not experienced a problem with motor vehicles on the trail; they control access through signage.

Motion: **MOVED** by J. Grayson and **Seconded** by J. Gaylord: “That the following resolution originally adopted as a recommendation to Council at the October 25, 2006 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting not be forwarded to Council but be referred to the Parks and Recreation and Engineering Departments for a report back to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee in the Fall:

“That a trial to determine the effectiveness of trail bollards or other alternatives be initiated as follows:

- 1. Where bollards currently block both ends of a trail section, remove bollards from one end. (For example : Lochside Trail at McMinn Park; sections of Lochside Trail between Quadra Street and the Switch Bridge).*
- 2. On trails where there is a low likelihood of cars entering the trail, remove all bollards. (For example: trail running parallel to Mt. Douglas Cross Road).*
- 3. Develop a sign indicating permitted and prohibited trail traffic to be used where bollards have been removed.”*

The Motion was then Put and Carried.

BIKE TO WORK WEEK CHALLENGE

The Chair advised that, at the launch of this year’s Bike to Work Week, she challenged Saanich staff against staff in all municipalities and the CRD. Last year the CRD won the trophy but this year Saanich will hopefully bring it home.

INTERURBAN RAIL TRAIL - UPDATE

The Chair advised that, in response to concerns expressed at previous meetings regarding the surface of the Interurban Rail Trail, an on-site meeting was arranged with herself, the Administrator, the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Parks Manager. The group met at Goward and walked the trail. There was general agreement that there were safety issues with the trail surface and staff will be preparing cost estimates and a report for further consideration. A report will also be forthcoming on trail standards for review by the Committee in June. Her understanding is that trail standards will lead to targeting Interurban to be paved in some form and there was general agreement that this type of gravel surface is higher maintenance in the long run.

LOCHSIDE REGIONAL TRAIL – SAANICH’S REQUEST TO CRD TO PAVE

The Chair advised that, at the May 16, 2007 meeting, the CRD Parks Committee considered a staff report in response to a request from Saanich Council to pave a portion of the Lochside Regional Trail. The CRD Parks Committee noted that the Lochside Regional Management Plan does not identify paving the trail in Saanich and that the Regional Parks 10-year Infrastructure Plan does not identify paving the trail as a planned expenditure. The current trail initiatives, staff resources and funding priorities are taken up with the E&N Rail Trail construction and completion of the Trans Canada trail. The CRD has estimated the cost to pave the Saanich portion of the Lochside Trail at \$390,000. The CRD Parks Committee’s recommendation is that Saanich’s request be considered as part of the process to update the Lochside Regional Trail Management Plan which is currently expected for an update in 2009/2010.

TRAVEL CHOICES – CRD AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that Darrell Wick and John Luton, Executive Director of the Capital Bike and Walk Society have volunteered to participate on the CRD's Travel and Demand Management Sub-Committee and Pedestrian and Cycling Sub-Committee.

PROJECT STATUS LIST

A Project Status List of ongoing Committee items was circulated and representatives from the assigned Departments made some changes and referred other items to the next meeting for consideration.

LOCHSIDE MAP SIGN

The Park Planning and Design Manager displayed the proposed Royal Oak/Lochside Map Sign for the Committee's consideration. He stated that one of the signs shows the major trail routes in Saanich and the second is a neighbourhood map for the Broadmead, Blenkinsop and Cordova Bay. The signs have been viewed by the Parks, Trail and Recreation Advisory Committee and they received a favourable response. Upon the Committee's approval, the sign will go into production within the next few weeks.

A discussion ensued and the Committee was pleased with the design of the maps.

ONGOING TRAIL PROJECTS**Centennial Trails – Phase 1**

The Park, Planning and Design Manager advised that they finished most of the trail section identified in the Centennial Trails Phase 1 program except the section from Brydon Park to West Saanich Road. It has been awaiting the Tri-Eagle property acquisition which has now been concluded. There are funds remaining in the budget to construct this section of the trail this year.

Centennial Trails – Phase 2

The Park, Planning and Design Manager stated that Council has provided funding to start the planning and design of the second phase of the Centennial Trails with construction to be in 2008 and 2009.

San Juan Greenway

The Park, Planning and Design Manager advised that there will be trail connections through Harvest Lane Park, Tyndall Park, along the south end of Mt. Douglas Park connecting the end of Glendenning to Winchester Rd.. There will be signs along the way and the Parks and Recreation Department are working with the Engineering Department to do the road crossings. Signs still need to be installed as part of Phase 1 of Centennial Trails.

In response to a question from the Committee, the Manager of Transportation stated that BC Transit wants to provide more transit service in the Gordon Head area along Cedar Hill Road and San Juan Avenue with the possible use of a community shuttle bus. It will not be a high frequency service.

The Park, Planning and Design Manager also advised that Saanich was successful in receiving a LocalMotion grant and will add to the San Juan Greenway by providing a sidewalk along one side of the road from Tyndall to Gordon Head Road.

Gordon Head Coastal Greenway

The Park Planning and Design Manager stated that work will be done on the safe crossing and pedestrian activated crossings in the area from the University of Victoria to Arbutus Cove Park and then using on-road sections through to Mt Douglas Park.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION/UBCM JOINT CYCLING STRATEGY SURVEY

The Chair advised that the Ministry of Transportation and UBCM are undertaking development of a comprehensive cycling strategy. The strategy document will provide recommendations on suggested roles and responsibilities for improving cycling and will also share best practices and to that end a survey of all local governments is being administered. She requested the Engineering, Parks and Recreation, and Planning Departments download the survey from the UBCM website and either fill it out separately or provide a combined response.

PROPOSED REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY AMENDMENTS – BOWKER CREEK GREENWAY

The Chair advised that the Friends of Bowker Creek have submitted a request to the CRD to consider identifying in concept the Bowker Creek Greenway on *Map 4: Regional Green/Blue Spaces System* of the Regional Growth Strategy as part of their amendments to the document.

The Manager of Community Planning stated that it may be premature to identify this greenway on a regional map as it is not a solid corridor yet and may not need to be raised to a regional profile. There are some obstacles in that it is on the road and there is some acquisitions still needed.

N. Neate stated that it would be good to identify it in a plan so as the community changes and grows, it shows this greenway as a regional trail and staff can see what is expected along the greenway and plan ahead.

The Chair requested that this item be brought back for further discussion.

Meeting: The next regular BIPED meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, June 21, 2007 in Committee Room No. 2.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

.....
Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

.....
Committee Secretary