

MINUTES
SAANICH BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM #2
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008 AT NOON

Present: Chair: Councillor Judy Brownoff
Members: Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, David DeShane, Neil Neate, John Smith, and Darrell Wick
Staff: Colin Doyle, Director of Engineering; Anne Topp, Manager of Community Planning; Steve Holroyd, Engineering Planner; Gerald Fleming, Park Planning and Design Manager and MaryAnn Greco, Senior Committee Clerk
Regrets: Constable Brad Brajich, Pam Shatzko and Sarah Webb

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Chair advised that there are two vacancies on the Committee for 2009. If the Committee knows of anyone wishing to serve, please direct them to the website to fill out an application form.

CENTENNIAL TRAILS UPDATE

The Park Planning and Design Manager provided the following update:

- Phase I is almost complete, just a couple of pieces remaining to be worked on.
- Interurban Rail Trail is finished for the time being until surface issues are resolved.
- Blenkinsop section is completed from Cedar Hill X Rd to Lochside to Glendenning
- A section of San Juan Greenway is currently being worked on from the corner of Cedar Hill Rd to Arbutus Cove Park.
- We have not been able to finish Colquitz
- Currently finishing the last section on West Saanich Road from Brydon Park to West Saanich Rd
- The Ministry of Highways does not want to remove the bollards on the Pat Bay Highway; the fear is that cyclists may fly onto Royal Oak Drive without them.
- To complete the last few stages of Phase I will cost a lot more money.
- In 2007, Council provided \$100,000 towards planning and design.
- In March 2008, three projects were selected: the Saanich Commonwealth Place connection through to Elk/Beaver Lake Park, infrastructure improvements along the Colquitz and the connection down to Bowker Creek including construction of a three metre wide asphalt path along the west side of Bowker Creek.
- A consultant will be contracted to develop detailed design plans so that if funding comes through, the design is already in place.

In response to concerns regarding water run off along Bowker Creek, the Parks Planning and Design Manager stated that using compacted gravel surfaces are not ideal because it is too slippery. In terms of transportation infrastructure, paving is needed in this case.

PROPOSED 2009 TRAIL PROJECTS

In regard to proposed 2009 Trail Projects, the Park Planning and Design Manager stated that new trails are planned to be completed through Layritz Park to create better connections. Trail planning and design is proposed for three trail sections of Centennial Trail Phase 2 focusing on Browning, Saanich Commonwealth Place and Colquitz. Other projects include two key sections of boardwalk for replacement on the Colquitz Trail adjacent to the creek; widen and replace a well-used trail along Lambrick Way from Feltham Road passing through the centre of Lambrick Park; upgrade to the steep trail in Grant Park to resolve safety concerns; upgrade and improve a main entrance trail at

Hampton Park from Burnside passing through the centre of the park and upgrade and improve a trail from Kent Road to Ralph Street.

PROPOSED 2009 CYCLING PROJECTS

The Director of Engineering advised that there are three separate pools of funding available over three years of \$10 million annually. The “lions share” will be going towards gateway projects in Vancouver and the Bike BC Program. The remaining will be going to the Cycling Infrastructure Partnerships Program (CIPP) however there is not a lot of local input. The CIPP is a cost-shared program where the Government of British Columbia will partner with local governments in the construction of new transportation cycling infrastructure. All British Columbia municipalities and regional districts are eligible to apply for CIPP funding.

The Chair questioned whether the Committee could make a recommendation to Council to write the Province for funding for a specific project from the Bike BC Program, perhaps the Douglas Trail. This item should be brought forward for discussion at a future meeting.

The Engineering Planner noted that the preliminary 2009 Transportation budget includes sidewalks on Santa Rosa from Wilkinson to Altamont, Wilkinson Road from Tulip to Burnside (phased project), Mt. Douglas Cross Road from Glendenning to Cedar Hill Road, Cordova Bay Road from Sunnygrove to Galey Way and improvements to the Shelbourne Street corner ramps from Pear Street to Feltham Road. In terms of bike lanes, Royal Oak Drive Phase 2 from Royal Oak Avenue to Emily Carr will be completed in 2009 and the Douglas Trail Phase 1 project from Ralph Street through to Rainbow Park will commence.

N. Neate stated that in terms of the current improvement being made on Royal Oak Drive eastbound to Chatterton Way, biking eastbound at 7am is not very busy but if a cyclist tries to go straight, there might be some conflict and they are coming up slow.

D. Wick stated that it is difficult for a cyclist to make their way into the left turn lane, the bike lane needs to begin before heading up to Chatterton Way.

J. Grayson agreed and added that cyclists are going slow uphill but car traffic is moving fast. Motorists may not let a cyclist get over to go left.

The Director of Engineering stated that he would review the plans for this section.

In response to concerns about the ‘cyclist dismount sign’ at the Cedar Hill Golf Course, the Parks Planning and Design Manager stated that he had discussed the Committee’s concerns with the Manager of the Cedar Hill Golf Course. The Manager advised that cyclists were going really fast on the trail and there was a congestion problem causing some close calls with golf carts. From a liability perspective, the sign was posted.

A discussion ensued and the Committee noted that the sign implies that cyclists are not supposed to be there. The Committee suggested consideration be given to replacing the sign with a share the trail sign (with a cyclist and golf cart on it), a yield sign or a caution sign.

The Engineering Planner stated that a small section of sidewalk will be introduced on Santa Rosa Avenue to complete the sidewalk to Wilkinson Road. The intent is to get a crosswalk from Wilkinson Road to Rosedale Park so that people coming from the South Valley and Knockan Hill areas do not have to cross Santa Rosa twice.

The Manager of Community Planning stated that the Glanford area needs some attention in terms of pedestrian improvements. The sidewalks from McKenzie Avenue to Kenneth Street are substandard and in poor condition. There is a path that has beaten down on Glanford Avenue near the intersection with Quadra Street that needs to be looked at. There are three schools along Glanford Avenue from McKenzie to Quadra Street so the area warrants some attention. These types of missing pedestrian linkages in neighbourhoods and in our downtown areas need to be examined.

The Director of Engineering stated that the Pedestrian Improvements Priority Program would not pick up Glanford Avenue because it has some sidewalks. In the new year, the engineering standards will be revised to include design parameters for sidewalks.

In response to a question from the Committee, the Parks Planning and Design Manager offered to advise CRD Parks about the gravel scattered on the trail going into Beaver Lake Park from Pipeline Road.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Engineering Planner stated:

- The current improvements on Cedar Hill Road will include a separated sidewalk; it does not preclude bike lanes in the future.
- The north end of Cordova Bay Road will include bike lanes in the future, it is contingent on enough funds being available through Development Cost Charges.
- There are no pedestrian improvements planned for Roy Road and North Road in the short term. It depends on what the future plans will be for the intersection of Interurban/Wilkinson/Hastings. A consultant is currently undertaking a traffic study looking at improving the capacity at this intersection. The intent is to begin a public consultation process in 2009.
- In terms of the berm adjacent to Rainbow Park, the Ministry of Transportation is supportive of our plans for the Douglas Trail and prefers that the trail goes right through the berm at 90°; Saanich will soften the view of the berm because there is a concern of kids being able to see right through the berm from the park.
- The Ministry of Transportation is also supportive of the connection at Chatterton Way to Royal Oak Drive parallel to the off ramp.

CLEARING OF SNOW AND ICE ON SIDEWALKS AND OVERPASSES

The Engineering Planner stated that clearing sidewalks of safe routes to school is a challenge, crews are very busy trying to get the roads clear. In terms of overpasses, they can not be cleared when there is someone under them so it is also a challenge.

The Manager of Community Planning noted that railings on overpasses are too low and does not feel safe for riding.

CONSIDERATION OF A FIVE YEAR CYCLING PLAN

D. DeShane stated that there needs to be a five year plan for cycling in terms of on-the-road infrastructure. The plan can be adopted by Council identifying priorities and assigned a budget. Direction is needed to get roads restriped and minor projects done. A document is needed that addresses the potential that exists.

The Chair stated that that annual target in the Strategic Plan is over 1 KM of trail and that is too low. A five year plan with priorities is needed. The Engineering Department uses the Pedestrian Improvements Priority Program for sidewalks but there is nothing to capture the potential for cycling improvements. She requested the Engineering Planner review the BiPed Sub-Committee's Road Conversion Projects List and update it for discussion at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next regular BIPED meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, January 15, 2009 in Council Chambers.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

.....
Committee Secretary

.....
Councillor Brownoff, Chair