

MINUTES
SAANICH BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM #2
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009 AT NOON

Present: Chair: Councillor Judy Brownoff
Members: Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Neil Neate, John Smith, Don Stenton, and Darrell Wick
Staff: Anne Topp, Manager of Community Planning; Steve Holroyd, Engineering Planner/Designer; Gerald Fleming, Park Planning and Design Manager; Cst. Ian Ritchie; and Tania Douglas, Committee Clerk Assistant
Guests: Ms. Barbara Tabata

Regrets: David DeShane, Ian Graeme

MINUTES MOVED by J. Gaylord and Seconded by J. Grayson: "That the minutes of the meeting held May 14, 2009 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

DOUGLAS STREET LOCAL CONNECTOR

The Engineering Planner/Designer noted:

- An open house was held on June 23, 2009 at Rainbow Park regarding the Douglas Street local connector. Approximately 80 people attended, and many comments and emails have been received.
- A review of public input will be done in August and will include staff from Engineering, Parks and the Planning Department.
- Residents seem to expect that another open house will be held; there is no expectation of any timeframe for this.

Committee discussion noted:

- There is a lot of misinformation about the trail location.
- An education component is needed for this project; there is much public concern regarding crime increasing with a new trail. People are concerned that the trail could assist criminals in getting away from police.

In response to safety concerns, Cst. Ian Ritchie stated he sees no issue with the construction of the trail in terms of crime increasing. He stated that the trail would also increase accessibility for good people, and he noted that cyclists using trails often report criminal incidents on their cell phones.

This issue will be brought forward for discussion in the fall after staff has reviewed public comments. The Engineering Planner/Designer will invite Cst. Petra Dornblut, Crime Prevention Officer to join the discussion.

ENHANCEMENTS TO PARKING AREA AT BOTTOM OF CHURCHILL DRIVE

Mr. Wick noted that a request from the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society was received regarding a project on Mount Douglas. Parks will be expanding the parking area at the bottom of Churchill Drive this summer, and as part of the plan a pedestrian flashing light will be installed; this work is slated for 2010. Mr. Wick asked if Engineering could perform the work this summer ahead of schedule.

In response to this question, the Engineering Planner/Designer stated that the work cannot be done ahead of schedule due to funding issues, and because crews are committed to other projects. It is hoped that the pedestrian light project will be completed in February or March 2010.

YIELD SIGN AT SWAN STREET CROSSING

A request was received asking that the pedestrian trail crossing at Swan Street be changed from a yield to a caution sign, similar to the sign on Switch Bridge and Burnside underpass, and to install a stop sign for users of Swan Street.

Committee discussion noted:

- The amount of traffic usually dictates the right-of-way. It appears that there is more traffic on the trail as opposed to Swan Street.
- Cyclists travel at fairly high speeds along that portion of the trail, and some do not obey the signs.

In response to committee discussion, the Engineering Planner/Designer noted that this is not a big issue because vehicle traffic is minimal. He also noted that cyclists have better sightlines than cars in that area.

Cst. Ian Ritchie noted that the area at the Darwin Avenue crossing is overgrown, and he requested that staff remove brush at the crossing to improve the sightlines.

The Engineering Planner/Designer was asked to look at the Swan Lake Crossing and Darwin Avenue.

REQUEST FOR CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS IN CEDAR HILL AREA

A request was received regarding safety issues in the Cedar Hill neighbourhood; specifically Shelbourne Street, Derby Road between Shelbourne Street and Cedar Hill Road, and Cedar Hill Road at Derby Road.

The Manager of Community Planning advised that:

- The Shelbourne Street planning process has to be completed, and a report will be prepared.
- Derby Road is on the radar for a sidewalk and extra funding was received from Council for this project; however work may not be completed for a couple of years.
- The request for bus stop sidewalk improvements can be included in the Derby Road project.

The Engineering Planner/Designer was asked to provide the committee with a 2-3 year plan of scheduled works. He will also respond to the writer who submitted the request.

CRD PARKS – REGIONAL PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Parks is preparing to develop a new strategic plan that will set the direction for the regional parks and trails system.

Committee discussion noted:

- The 2008 Annual Parks Report cites the Galloping Goose trail a visiting area as opposed to a regularly used corridor.
- It should be recognized that trails are used for transportation.

The Chair stated that:

- The CRD is looking for people to sit on their Citizen's Advisory Panel, to provide advice to the Regional Parks Committee on the preparation of the Strategic Plan, and to recommend a plan.
- The Galloping Goose Trail is leased as a transportation corridor and will be included in the study.
- The CRD will present their information to this committee in the fall.

SAFETY CONCERNS ON MCCOY ROAD

The Engineering Planner/Designer stated that:

- Staff responded to a letter received regarding pedestrian safety on McCoy Road.
- Saanich is working with the University of Victoria to address traffic issues surrounding the University.
- A number of projects in the area are being contemplated; a review of McCoy Road will be included in the scope of McKenzie Avenue upgrades.
- Problems seem to occur during the morning and evening travel times.
- The pedestrian/cycling travel route past the end of the McCoy Road right-of-way crosses onto private property; trees need to be removed, and the property owner must be in agreement with any proposed improvements.

The Manager of Community Planning suggested that in the interim, street lights or white lines painted on the road may help. Cst. Ian Ritchie stated that he would like to explore lighting the area in the fall.

The Engineering Planner/Designer stated that he will look at lighting and line painting. He is waiting to see what direction the CRD is going with the location of the regional sewage treatment plant. The University expansion is also an issue.

MOTION: MOVED by J. Grayson and Seconded by J. Gaylord: "That the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee request staff to investigate short-term solutions to address safety concerns on McCoy Road."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Cycling News Article

- Cst. Ian Ritchie noted that it would be possible for him to write a monthly article on cycling safety for the Saanich News; members should bring any topic suggestions to the next meeting, or send an email to iritchie@saanichpolice.ca.

Wilkinson/Interurban Roads

- The Engineering Planner/Designer reported on the open house regarding Wilkinson and Interurban Roads. The next steps are to examine feedback and provide a report to Council.

Shelbourne Street

- Long-term planning is necessary; the existing Shelbourne Plan is from the 1960's.
- An educational component is required.
- Committee will further discuss in the Fall.

Brainstorming/Long-Term Issues/Long-Range Planning

Items to discuss include:

- Public free bikes.
- Public toilets along trails. Parks is working on this as a fall initiative.
- Cycling map – to assist cyclists in terms of safety, include Motor Vehicle Act to advise riders of the helmet law. Could be made part of student orientation.
- The pedestrian curbing is coming along nicely on Shelbourne Street. A suggestion was made to send a commendation to workers when the project is completed.

Pedestrian Infrastructure

Items to discuss include:

- Design elements of sidewalks/intersections.
- Pedestrian standards around villages; discuss demographics/mobility issues.
- Stairs: Fire Department/Building Code result in less use of stairs. To discuss as a healthy community issue.
- Retail clutter in front of businesses impeding access into the stores for wheelchair users: the Manager of Community Planning will provide information regarding the requirement for businesses to provide unobstructed sidewalk access or store frontage into their stores for wheelchair users.

Next Meeting:

The next regular BIPED meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, September 17, 2009 in Committee Room No. 2.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair