

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

Members: Neil Arason, Island Health
Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Natalia Heilke, RoadSafetyBC
Sgt. Jereme Leslie, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Steve Martin, Community Member (Chair)
Dean Murdock, CRD Board (Vice-Chair)
Joel Satre, Capital Bike
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Associates: Sgt. Doug Cripps, Saanich Police
John Hicks, CRD

Guests: Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Division, District of Saanich
Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner, District of Saanich

Regrets: Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Centre for Youth and Society, UVic
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic
Keith Vass, Media

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Martin provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the agenda be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

3. Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2024

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Jereme Leslie, that the minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2024 be approved. **CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

No remarks

5. Presentation – Saanich Road Safety Action Plan – Troy McKay, Senior Manager, Transportation and Development Division; Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner, District of Saanich

A summary of today's presentation follows. The entire Saanich Road Safety Action Plan can be viewed at www.Saanich.ca/roadsafetyaction.

Troy McKay noted he attended a Commission meeting a year ago to present a report on the state of road safety which was the background data that was developed to support the development of this plan. Saanich has been working on this initiative for about two years to get to this stage and wanted to have a data driven and evidence-based plan that is tangibly feasible.

Megan Squires provided an overview of what is included in the Road Safety Action Plan. It is an evidence-based and data driven 10-year plan that is grounded in Vision Zero and the Safe System Approach and will help guide implementation of safety on Saanich roads for all road users. The presentation today will focus on what is in the road safety plan, the plan framework, the current state

of road safety in Saanich, and look at the action plan component of the document, implementation of the plan and the engagement process.

Road safety is a priority for the District of Saanich. In 2022, Saanich Council adopted Vision Zero and the Safe System Approach as a framework for road safety. The District is looking at ways to improve safety on their roads for all road users with a particular focus on vulnerable road users. Road safety is also going to play an important role in terms of Saanich moving towards their vision for complete and compact communities. The document includes vision and mission statements, and both were shared with the community as part of the public engagement. Adjustments were made based on the input that was received.

The eight guiding principles in the plan are: data and evidence; collaboration and partnerships; protect the most vulnerable road users; speed and conflict management; shift to safer vehicles and also shift people to use safer modes of transportation; equity; sustainable long term funding; and support a growing culture of road safety.

Responsibility for road safety is spread across different levels of government, as well as private and public agencies and partner organizations.

The Safe System portion of the action plan includes six elements. They are: safe speeds; safe road users; safe vehicles; safe streets; post-crash care; and safe land use planning. Within the framework of the Safe System, 31 actions have been identified. There are 9 primary actions, and these are the actions with the greatest potential to achieve Vision Zero and are also the actions where Saanich is primarily responsible. The other 22 actions are supporting actions and in some cases are longer term or not necessarily within the direct control of Saanich.

The primary actions are: prioritize road safety investments in high priority locations; build multi-modal streets that include transit priority and infrastructure for walking, rolling and cycling; pursue infrastructure solutions with demonstrated positive safety performance; conduct a Saanich-wide crosswalk safety review; develop a traffic calming policy and program; review speed limits to support reduced speeds; continue to enforce impaired driving laws; continue to enforce distracted driving laws; and carry out road safety audits. The supporting actions are also important in the pursuit of Vision Zero and will be implemented over the 10 years of the plan and include a range of actions to address engineering, enforcement, education and awareness and equity.

The plan also touches on advocacy and collaboration. Some of the key areas for advocacy that are identified in the plan include expanding the intersection safety camera program, safety inspections for older vehicles and mandated vehicle safety features.

Gaps in existing data sets on crash data have been identified. Key areas of focus around data are: improve crash reporting; increase data on distracted and impaired drivers; improve data on crashes involving active transportation; and integrate crash data and make it available to municipalities.

Implementation of the plan will require a dedicated and consistent approach, working closely with partners across the sector, establishing a dedicated and sustainable funding source, and continuing to work with the Transportation Advisory Committee.

The draft plan is available for public review and feedback until March 31. There is an online survey available on the Saanich website and public engagement pop-up events have been held throughout the community. Based on the feedback received, final changes will be made and a final draft prepared to be presented to Council in summer of 2024.

Questions and discussion followed the presentation.

- Has there been engagement with other municipalities? Participation in regional meetings takes place where policy items are frequently discussed. Have met with individual municipalities that share borders with Saanich re this plan. Saanich is one of the few municipalities that have gone to this level so have received limited feedback from adjacent municipalities.
- How can safety data on major shared roads be collected? Collecting the data is not much different than it would be on non-shared roads. Through the data bases, can pull out the data specifically. There's not a lot of difference in how the analysis is done.

- Re implementation, there are specific legal agreements with other municipalities on who is responsible for what.
- What would be the role of the CRD and partner jurisdictions in implementing this, particularly relating to principle 5 re shift to safer vehicles? How can we take these ideas and make sure they are implemented at the CRD level? There are a number of actions in the document that have been specifically called out as items that require effort at the CRD level. Saanich can't do it alone but there is a lot that can be done when it comes to having sound land use decisions and building complete communities.
- As part of the Traffic Safety Commission, our role would be to see how we can make sure that other jurisdictions are consistent as there doesn't seem to be coordination for some of these efforts. Something that this group can do would be on the data side. Data that is collected in all the different pots doesn't mix together. This is an area that is a challenge province wide and needs a lot of work to improve analysis of road safety issues.
- This plan has been good for a regional approach. It is something other municipalities have been watching carefully and Saanich has taken the leading step and identified a lot of the gaps and best initiatives. It is also something that the Transportation Working Group is working on in terms of consistency with bylaws, implementation, etc. There is a lot of work you don't see that is taking place between municipalities as they are doing their planning, particularly as they are coordinating their infrastructure for their cycling and rolling areas. That type of future role for the CRD will be part of the current transportation service discussion.
- Is there a plan re integration of data? It is one of those things that would be nice to work on but as far as making meaningful changes for people using Saanich roads it's lower on the list. It would be more of a regional or provincial initiative, but is very challenging.
- There is a data innovation program run by the Ministry of Citizen Services. The datasets have been linked together but it is only for research purposes. It does show that it is doable. The program needs to be changed so that it can be used for surveillance and monitoring as well.
- Re active transportation and corridors, a lot of integration takes place with BC Transit.
- What regulatory changes for motor vehicles would be advocated for? Larger vehicles have more impact on vulnerable road users so advocate for things like hood heights for pick-up trucks and side skirts for semis.
- Saanich is a leader. There are lots of things that other municipalities can be inspired by and learn from so it would be great to continue to think about how the Commission can ensure that Saanich gets showcased so other municipalities can follow.

Vice-Chair Murdock acknowledged the incredible amount of work by Saanich Engineering and Transportation Division that has gone into putting the Saanich Road Safety Action Plan together.

Chair Martin invited Troy and Megan to come back in approximately a year and let us know how the consultation process finished up and provide a status report on their implementation date.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

➤ Update on Transportation Working Group

The Transportation Working Group will be meeting this Friday, and bollards and e-scooters will be on the agenda. Saanich and Victoria have both put forward their application to be part of the e-scooter pilot project. They are currently the only municipalities in the region that have applied and the implications of that will be discussed on Friday. The transportation service will also be discussed and are looking at that in terms of how it will be presented back to the Transportation Committee.

Regarding the question of how we engage with different municipalities, meetings are held one on one as well as in the Working Group. Regional meetings also take place between municipalities that have adjoining boundaries.

➤ Report on Meeting with Adam Defrane of MADD

Deferred to next meeting.

7. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

The budget has come through and we have approximately \$70,000 remaining for this year. We were able to get our larger expenses paid out of last year's budget so got our surplus down quite substantially.

➤ **BCACP Calendar**

- March – Distracted Drivers Campaign/Occupant Restraint Campaign
- May – High Risk Driving Campaign
- July – Summer Impaired Driving Campaign (Alcohol/Drug)
- September – Distracted Drivers Campaign/Occupant Restraint Campaign
- October – Drive Relative to Conditions Campaign
- December – Winter Impaired Driving Campaign

The purpose of putting the BCACP calendar initiatives on our agenda is to act as a reminder for the Commission re the focus of our partners and to try and frame our advertising to support them. We could do the advertising ourselves or support any of our partners with additional funding to expand their campaigns.

Sgt. Jereme Leslie noted that the distracted driving/occupant restraint campaign is taking place this month as per the BCACP calendar and the next one will be the high-risk driving campaign in May. Although it is not on the calendar, they have just completed the slow down, move over campaign which is a provincial priority.

Colleen Woodger commented they worked with Saanich on the distracted driving/occupant restraint campaign. There were many volunteers and reserves also on the road doing the education component. There was no capacity to do media for that but planning to get something out next month.

8. **Other Business**

9. **Member Updates**

➤ **RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke**

No update

➤ **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**

- There will be a volunteer symposium taking place in April in Nanaimo. Hoping to rejuvenate them and do some more recruitment.
- The speaker tour will be taking place in May with most of the schools on board.
- The BC hockey league sponsorship has finished. They were able to get announcements and distracted driving messages on the jumbotron and used players as spokespersons. It was a pilot so will reconvene and see what that looks like next year.
- Will be doing a senior presentation in Gordon Head this week along with a Saanich traffic member to speak to the mature driver about keeping safe.
- Have done eight high school presentations in the past month including at Claremont and Stelly's.
- Community grants are finished with funding given to Victoria Crimewatch and Ready Step Roll.
- Volunteer appreciation week will be held in April and funding will go out to volunteer groups.
- Our highway signs have been rotated, with a plan to take a look at refreshing the theme, branding and messaging on the signs in June/July.
- Did some work at Oak Bay Secondary on the social responsibility program. It is not as strong as when it's coming from the police but trying to offer support as much as possible.

➤ **Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker**

- BCAA is currently pushing distracted driving material as well.
- Will be doing car seat training with Colwood Fire Department, not Oak Bay as mentioned last month. Also have booked an additional two training sessions with Victoria Fire Department so in total will have 21 new educators in the CRD by the end of April.

➤ **Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul**

No update

➤ **CRD – John Hicks**

- Some staff have been trained in the 529 Garage bike registration. It will be tried internally with staff first to see how it goes.
- Let's Get Visible events have just come to an end. It has been very successful.

- Ready Step Roll – schools from last year just finishing up. Municipalities have been working well with that and putting in additional infrastructure. Next year's program is fully subscribed.
 - Doing a Google Street view mapping exercise going down through regional trails showing access points, safety issues, etc. Will be out on the trail network in June running that and it will go online so people can view information on the trails.
- **Integrated Road Safety Unit – Sgt. Jereme Leslie**
- Next week will be instructing/teaching and providing education to 16 local youth as part of the Greater Victoria police camp which is a leadership camp for which the Greater Victoria Police Foundation provides funding.
- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Myke Labelle**
No update
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
- May is motorcycle awareness month so will have a media splash there.
 - Already underway and are booked up until July.
 - The first course in the rider refresher training that the Commission endorsed will be on April 19.
- **Capital Bike – Joel Satre**
- A new executive director will be announced soon.
 - There has been some staff turnover but have been able to fill the positions.
 - Winter Go by Bike Week took place in February.
 - Capital Bike have taken a supportive stance on the mobility scooter in bike lane issue.
 - Will be doing some e-bike training and bike education in schools.
- **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
- There's been a high number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries lately and several of them were pedestrians. Walk On received some media requests and forwarded the UVic study on factors that contribute to serious injury and fatal collisions contracted by the Commission. Todd did highlight the good news that the CRD traffic fatality rate has been declining, but this year there seems to be an inordinate number of pedestrian fatalities and it highlights the importance of addressing those.
- **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP
Sgt. Doug Cripps, Saanich**
- Distracted driving campaign ongoing for the month
 - Planning on putting a proposal together with Colleen Woodger for a project in the fall
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
No update
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - Owen Page**
No update
- **Island Health – Neil Arason**
- Competition is still open for two more injury prevention specialists, one for mid Island and one for north Island. Neil can send a link for the postings to anyone interested.
 - Ten grants will be going out under the Vision Zero grant program. More information will be provided at next month's meeting.
- **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
No update

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 9, 2024 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.