

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

Members: Neil Arason, Island Health
Douglas Baer, Capital Bike
Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Collaborative for Youth and Society, UVic
Natalia Heilke, RoadSafetyBC
Steve Martin, Community Member (Chair)
Dean Murdock, CRD Board (Vice-Chair)
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Associates: Cst. David Bratzer, Oak Bay Police
Jay Douillard, CRD
Dallas Perry, BC Transit

Regrets: Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Sgt. Jereme Leslie, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Sean Powell, School District 61
Keith Vass, Media

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Martin provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Ron Cronk, **SECONDED** by Natalia Heilke, that the agenda be approved with the following addition:
• Add Confidentiality under Other Business **CARRIED**

3. Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2025

MOVED by Paweena Sukhawathanakul, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2025 be approved with an amendment to the following motion:

MOVED by Steve Martin, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the Traffic Safety Commission recommends to the CRD Board that the CRD Board advocate to the province for improved interregional bus service in recognition that affordable transit and its frequency play a role in traffic safety.
• Add Owen Page as abstaining from the vote

4. Chair's Remarks

No remarks.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

➤ **Update on Transportation Working Group**

Jay Douillard provided an update on the meeting of the Transportation Working Group held this morning. The discussion included topics relevant to the Traffic Safety Commission. One agenda item was the Working Group's interest in road safety campaigns so there would be the potential for collaboration with the Commission. Jay informed the Group about the Commission's proposal for a public awareness initiative concerning traffic-related changes, and they were keen on that idea. This presents an opportunity to connect with the Group and potentially use their expertise as we develop our campaigns. Working Group members noted that the primary conflict in Saanich occurs at mid-block crossings, especially affecting vulnerable road users. Jay will facilitate further connection with the Working Group.

Fred Grouzet mentioned an upcoming meeting next week to begin work on the public awareness campaign and suggested inviting members of the Working Group to participate. Jay will be part of that group.

➤ **Automated Speed Enforcement Implementation Recommendations (Steve Martin)**

Chair Martin stated that he will be putting together a presentation to go to the Transportation Committee on April 23 which will include the Commission's recommendations on automated speed enforcement. He requested comments and feedback from members. Discussion ensued as follows.

- Polling by three different companies over the last 3-5 years shows that the majority of British Columbians support ASE. It was implemented badly in the 90's, but we can implement it in a way that conforms with best practice. It is proven all over the world.
- We know why ASE didn't work in the 90's and know what needs to happen to make it work. It is a clearer picture so it can't be dismissed out of hand.
- We should reach out to community groups and find some way to send the message across. We don't want to just hear from people who are against it. Having more organizations in support will strengthen our hand. Possibly we could ask for letters of support later in the process.
- We will be recommending several things to the Committee, and one is to advocate to the provincial government for enabling legislation. Assuming the Committee supports this, they would make a recommendation to the Board who would effectively rubber stamp what the Committee recommends. After that, the CRD Board Chair will write a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The success rate is not high unless there is other political pressure.
- Canvassing local governments may be beneficial. Increased support can attract the interest of Cabinet. It could possibly go through the Union of BC Municipalities with letters sent directly to the Premier and Ministry to generate more attention, which is generally what Cabinet responds to.
- Once the Board has given its direction, only the Board Chair speaks to it. We can probably advocate for this independently but with the Board's blessing. Part of the request to the Committee may be that we would like their acknowledgement and approval for the Commission to lobby for this.
- We could put an offer out to municipal councils to give a short presentation. Possibly we may want to go to councils first, so when the proposal goes to the CRD they would be familiar with it.
- We all wear two hats; the Commission and the independent organizations we are part of so each member could look informally at what we could do to get support. We can all be advocates for this within our own organizations.
- We have done solid research to back this request. It didn't go well when it was implemented in the 90's and there are reasons why. We will be recommending an entirely different set of parameters in terms of implementing this.
- Parent advisory councils could be another source of support.
- We can suggest that as a Commission we would like to approach municipal councils and make a presentation to the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police who could then take it forward to the BC Association of Chiefs of Police.
- The BC Traffic Safety Committee is another potential source of support. It includes police in BC with a focus on traffic issues and they regularly push issues up the chain of command.
- For a couple of reasons, we would be recommending that the provincial government pass enabling legislation to allow local governments to do this, as opposed to recommending that the province do it. The province would find it easier to support enabling legislation as they would not bear all the risks of implementation. Another reason is that when one level of government moves forward, there is a big target for people who are against it. Also, when things get implemented, the provincial government can't resist the money. If it's done at the municipal level, it is much easier to sell it publicly and put barriers around the revenue and it also allows regional differences.
We could also suggest to the Province that regional districts and local governments must base implementation of ASE on the five guiding principles.
- We can make the point that this is complementary to traditional police speed enforcement, not a replacement, and offers safety benefits along with 24/7 speed monitoring, targeted enforcement, etc. It is an evidence-based deployment of cameras.

Chair Martin will send out a revised 1-2 page proposal prior to the next meeting, along with a presentation slide deck. At the March meeting, the Commission will prepare a motion to be presented at the April Traffic Committee meeting. The proposal will be included as an attachment to the motion, and it was suggested that the TSC logo be added.

Action: Add to March agenda to review revised proposal and put forward a motion

6. **Priority Business**

➤ **Budget Update**

We have about \$50,000 in third party payments for the year so members are encouraged to think of eligible projects that could come forward, and hopefully early in the year, rather than later. There is a surplus of \$7000 from last year that has been carried over.

➤ **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.

Colleen Woodger provided an update. From March 3 to the end of the month, there will be enhanced enforcement for the distracted driving campaign with volunteers participating as well. May will focus on speeding and high-risk driving, and it is planned to hold a large regional event to highlight that. Chair Martin suggested this would be a good time to start doing some media on ASE.

7. **Other Business**

➤ **Cyclists and Bus Lanes (Doug Baer)**

Doug Baer noted that he has received information from Jereme Leslie and Owen Page indicating that cyclists are currently allowed to use bus lanes. He questioned whether an HOV lane could be considered a type of bus lane. The Act's wording is unclear, and even if it is legal for cyclists to use bus lanes, clearer language would be helpful. He suggested it might be a good idea to postpone discussion in Jereme Leslie's absence. The Act states "may not drive," which implies that cycling could be permissible since verbs are not defined.

Ron Cronk mentioned that the diamond shape signifies a designated use lane, but does not specify what can be used there, which is why additional signage is necessary to indicate its intended use. The responsibility for determining its use as a bus lane lies with the municipality.

Doug suggested that the discussion be deferred so he can do some more research. There are three categories: bus lane, HOV lane, and designated use lane which can be designated for any use. If it is the case that "drive" does not include bicycles, then it would be unnecessary to have created a regulation that explicitly says this does not apply to bicycles. That exclusion applies to HOV lanes, but not bus lanes. Doug will do more work checking on designated lanes and how that affects the argument and contact local police to get their perspective. His concern is not a province wide legislative change, but safety in the CRD. Capital Bike wants to be able to tell cyclists what they can and cannot do.

MOVED by Doug Baer, **SECONDED** by Owen Page, that consideration of this issue be postponed for three months.

CARRIED

➤ **Add Confidentiality**

Doug Baer asked which materials are covered by our non-disclosure agreement. It was suggested that the author's approval might be needed before sharing emails, letters, etc. Chair Martin recommended that Doug follow up with the CRD for clarification.

8. **Member Updates**

➤ **RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke**

No update

➤ **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**

- Targeting schools with graduated licensing information.
- Will be spending an entire day at Gulf Islands Secondary next Thursday targeting Grade 11 students on choices. First responders and PARTY Program, along with ICBC, will be there. It is planned to do this at Vic High next year.
- 39 secondary schools out of 45 island wide have been reached so far for the speaker program. That is a record in Colleen's 21 years of delivering this program.
- The distracted driving campaign will be taking place in March and a regional event is going to be held.
- Working with Ready Step Roll Think of Me Program. Had a great day with them providing support for their school kits, etc.
- Will be delivering a presentation at the BC Highway Patrol island regional meeting sharing resources and finding ways to elevate BCACP calendar.
- Doing new to BC seniors talk in Metchosin and making sure that Uber drivers, Uber Eats, etc., have the right class of license.
- The motorcycle skills event is happening on May 31 and will be supporting funds for that.

- **Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker**
 - Doing training for Victoria General Hospital on February 25 for special needs seats and regular child passenger seats so there will be eight new educators out of VGH.
 - Offering free sessions for groups and individuals that are 2-3 hours long instead of the full eight hours.
 - Promoting use of booster seats on their social media. They are seeing parents moving their kids out of booster seats far too early.
 - Trying to reach out to immigrant families and work with them as they are not familiar with car seats.
- **Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul**
No update
- **CRD – Jay Douillard**
 - Let's Get Visible campaign which was supported by the Commission has been going well. In addition to being on the trails, doing pop-ups, and targeting bus users, have also started going to seniors' homes and daycares to give out the reflectors to vulnerable people who may go out walking. It has been a very positive experience.
- **Integrated Road Safety Unit – Sgt. Jereme Leslie**
No update
- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Myke Labelle**
No update
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
 - School starts March 1. Registration has been heavy and are almost booking into June now.
 - The rider refresher course will be offered again and planning on asking for funds from the Commission.
 - Motorcycle skills day is May 31. It is a good mixer for people.
- **Capital Bike – Doug Baer**
 - Capital Bike is going to start an advocacy newsletter. They have 13,000 CRD email addresses, so when the newsletter is launched, it will have a wide distribution. If there is a safety article or content that might be relevant as part of the newsletter, it could be a way to communicate with a large audience, and possibly also be a way to gather feedback from cyclists about safety issues.
- **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
No update
- **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP**
No update
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
 - Currently hiring operators
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - Owen Page**
No update
- **Island Health – Neil Arason**
No update
- **Working Group for UVic Collaborative for Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
 - Frederick showed the latest video that has been created in conjunction with CHEK. The message is "safety starts with sharing roads and responsibility." Members made the following suggestions for changers: have the words "safety starts with sharing roads" come up before the logos of the sponsors; show the driver making a shoulder check before turning; shave a couple of seconds off the shot of the pedestrians waving; and remove the words "and responsibility" after "safety starts with sharing roads."
- **Adam Defrane, MADD Canada**
No update
- **Sean Powell, School Districts**
No update

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2025 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.