

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, July 9, 2024**

Members: Neil Arason, Island Health
Douglas Baer, Capital Bike
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Natalia Heilke, RoadSafetyBC
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Steve Martin, Community Member (Chair)
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Colin Plant, CRD Board Chair (for Dean Murdock)
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic

Associates: Natalie Bandringa, CRD

Regrets: Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Collaborative for Youth and Society, UVic
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Sgt. Jereme Leslie, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Dean Murdock, CRD Board (Vice-Chair)
Keith Vass, Media
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Martin provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Ron Cronk, **SECONDED** by Owen Page, that the agenda be approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 11, 2024

MOVED by Neil Arason, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the minutes of the meeting held on June 11, 2024 be approved. **CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Martin commented that he was away for the June meeting but was appreciative of the good progress made around research on automated enforcement which is in line with our strategic priorities.

CRD Board Chair Colin Plant is attending today's meeting as Dean Murdock's alternate. Chair Plant encouraged the Commission to bring recommendations to the Board through the Transportation Committee, in addition to the education campaigns that the Commission carries out. Chair Plant also explained the structure of the CRD Board which is comprised of 24 members from around the region. The Board has created a number of standing committees, and the Chair appoints Board members to the committees. The Transportation Committee is the largest committee. Recommendations from the Commission are made to the Transportation Committee, who then decide if they want to pass those to the Board.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- **Report on Island Health Meeting with School District Superintendents re representative on the Commission**
Deferred
- **Update on Transportation Working Group**
The Working Group met on June 13 and BC Transit did a presentation on the scope of the transit future plan refresh and its relationship to the regional corridor strategy. BC Transit will provide the working group with the terms of reference for the plan when they are available.

Also at the meeting, CRD staff presented an overview of the May 24 regional transportation governance workshop which indicated eight categories for the new potential transportation service. Those minutes went to the Transportation Committee meeting on June 19 and the Committee also received the official "What we Heard Report" and will be forwarding a recommendation to the Board that staff draft a Service Establishment Bylaw that allows for the implementation of all eight service categories and bring it back for reading by Q4 2024. That recommendation will be going to the Board meeting on July 10. If staff receive direction to draft a bylaw, it will come back to the Transportation Committee on September 11.

6. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

There hasn't been much spending over the last month, and we have approximately \$68,000 remaining in the budget.

Natalie Bandringa brought forward a request for funding for rechargeable light up slap bands for the Let's Get Visible Campaign. Last year the Commission contributed \$10,000 and the request is for another \$10,000 to purchase these again.

MOVED by Colin Plant, **SECONDED** by Todd Litman, that the Commission allocate up to \$10,000 to support the CRD's Let's Get Visible campaign for trail and road users. **CARRIED**

Concerns were raised about pedestrian safety on trails and Board Chair Plant noted there is a motion going to the July 10 CRD Board meeting regarding safety on multi-use trails.

In a response to a question, it was noted that distribution of the slap bands takes place in municipalities throughout the CRD and on the trails. Municipal staff are invited to attend, and the police are often in attendance as well.

Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship

The date to receive applications for the 2024 Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship was extended to July 31.

➤ 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.

Chair Martin raised the question of whether it would be possible during impaired driving campaigns for information to be handed out to motorists reminding them of the consequences. It was agreed this was a good idea and it could be complemented by having a Commission spokesperson talk to the media to raise awareness of the consequences.

Possible future agenda items were requested as follows: a campaign on the new passing law re bikes; conflict reduction plan for sidewalks and mixed-use paths; and Malahat highway bus improvements as a traffic safety strategy. Chair Martin will discuss these with Vice-Chair Murdock and look at adding these items to agendas in September and October.

7. Other Business

Malahat Bus Improvements

Todd Litman spoke briefly about the need for improvements to transit service on the Malahat. Todd is President of Better Island Transit which is a new organization that advocates for more frequent and affordable bus service on Vancouver Island. He commented that the bigger picture is to ask whether

vehicle travel reductions are considered a safety strategy and, if so, should we favour transportation improvements that reduce the amount of driving. There is a lot of research that indicates this is true. Currently BC Transit offers four buses a day between Duncan and Victoria oriented towards Duncan commuters so an insignificant amount of travel on the Malahat is via public transportation. There are good reasons to think that if there were frequent and affordable transit trips over the Malahat, you would expect to see a reduction in crashes. Better Island Transit is framing this primarily as a fairness issue, i.e., should the provincial government be investing in transportation services for non-drivers at least in proportion to demand, but there are also potentially large safety benefits. It is probably the most cost-effective way to improve safety and would cost a tiny fraction of the proposed Malahat median barrier widening work.

Todd asked if the Commission would be interested in him giving a presentation or sharing some of the research that has been done on this and maybe asking the Ministry if they could validate the idea that improving public transit would provide at least proportional reduction in crashes and should be considered as a traffic safety strategy.

Neil Arason commented that he agreed and everything he has read aligns with that, reducing exposure will reduce crashes as well as obviously reducing carbon. It would also allow access to mobility for disadvantaged groups. He doesn't agree that we should pit this against the addition of the median barriers as crossover crashes are deadly.

Chair Martin said he would like to have a more fulsome discussion on this topic, and it will be added to an agenda in the fall.

8. Member Updates

➤ RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke

- Their new social media accounts are finally up and running so they are now on Instagram and Facebook and still on Twitter. Their communications staff will reach out to partners soon.
- They are in the early stages of developing the next BC Road Safety Strategy to update the current one that goes to 2025. The new strategy will go until 2030. They are hoping to develop a strategy that might be easier to iterate on and will be adding a safe systems approach that includes all six pieces, i.e., safe vehicles, safe roads, safe road users, safe speed, safe land use planning and post-crash care.
- One of the things they will be looking at is data communities and what the present data is and how it's being used or not and what the gaps are. They will be interested in some work to find out what municipalities would find useful in terms of data when it comes to planning purposes.

➤ ICBC – Colleen Woodger

No update

➤ Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker

No update

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

- Recruiting is still taking place for participants for a study being done in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General looking at self-regulation of regular cannabis users and hoping to understand how they monitor their impairment and make decisions about driving after use, etc.
- Another study that's happening now with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is looking at the relationship between transportation infrastructure and changes in rider and pedestrian cognition, physical and mental health. This is a longitudinal study and Paweena is working with engineers to come up with bikeability and walkability indices.

➤ CRD – Natalie Bandringa

- An action item from the last meeting was to write a staff report and forward the study on the efficacy of using automatic speed enforcement cameras and red-light cameras in the CRD that was presented at the June Commission meeting to the Transportation Committee. That will most likely go to the September Committee meeting. In the staff report Natalie will refer to the

letter sent by Chair Plant in January 2024 to the Honourable Mike Farnworth regarding the intersection safety camera program. No reply was received to that letter.

➤ **Integrated Road Safety Unit – Sgt. Jereme Leslie**

No update

➤ **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Myke Labelle**

No update

➤ **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**

- They are running almost full classes through October. Ultimately, their goal is to make motorcycles safer to operate with better instruction and they currently follow the coroner's report on motorcycle fatalities and look for some of the key trigger points. One of the blind spots in the data is that there is nothing that says if you take a motorcycle course, you're better off than if you don't.

Ron represents motorcyclists for Vancouver Island as a stakeholder with the provincial government looking at graduated licensing for motorcyclists. It has been very robust, and they have gotten a lot of motorcycle schools involved. That was really a key contributor to where they are moving forward. There were some significant target groups that came out of the coroner's report and Vancouver Island Safety Council is hitting those target groups. The Commission assisted with funding for the rider refresher training course last year. Ron commented that the government has no appetite for mandatory motorcycle training in BC.

➤ **Capital Bike – Doug Baer**

- Capital Bike are trying to do a lot with respect to infrastructure and are looking at a proposal not to put bike facilities along Wallace Drive in Central Saanich. The plan is to paint sharrows on the road and guidelines for sharrows suggest that if there are more than about 500-1000 cars per day, that shouldn't be done and could make the road more dangerous.
- Trying to figure out what to do re the Municipality of Saanich because in the third quarter Saanich Engineering will be bringing in a report as to what it would cost to do an acceleration of the active transportation plan. Saanich engineering is less than enthusiastic about the idea. Is there something that can be done short of compressing a 50-year active transportation plan into 10-15 years? Is there something that will improve infrastructure in the Municipality of Saanich without incurring the massive cost of doing everything and what are the priorities? They don't want to see the opportunity lost or the Municipality saying "this is too expensive, let's do nothing."

➤ **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**

- Walk On Victoria is currently focused in the core communities and they do pedestrian audits where they walk around the neighborhoods and look for sidewalks that need improvement but they are also aware that a lot of the other outlying areas where people walk less are the ones that need the most improvement. Their long-term hope is that the CRD can develop tools for doing sidewalk inventories and identify where the gaps are in areas that don't currently have a lot of walking going on.

➤ **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP**

No update

➤ **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**

No update

➤ **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - Owen Page**

There are a number of projects of all sizes ongoing.

- Keating Cross Road – The highway will be closed overnight for three or four nights at the end of the month to place the girders across the highway to support the foundation of the flyover.
- Salt Spring Island – Project to widen Fulford Ganges Road between Cranberry and Seaview. The tender closed last week, and it is planned to break ground as soon as August.
- Highway 14 – culvert repairs underway.
- Line painting wrapping up for their service area.

➤ **Island Health – Neil Arason**

- Neil commented that at the next meeting he would like to have a discussion about amending our agenda so that we include a standing item on our main advocacy items and things we could recommend to the Transportation Committee.
- He also asked if it would be possible to get a list of members of the Transportation Working Group and a copy of their terms of reference. Chair Plant noted that the Working Group reports to the Transportation Committee so their minutes are part of the workings of other bodies.

Action: Natalie will supply information on the Transportation Working Group

Natalie Heilke suggested it would be useful for new members to have a reference package with information about the Commission mandate and membership, and how it relates to other groups in the CRD structure.

➤ **Working Group for UVic Collaborative for Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**

No update

Annual Presentation to the Transportation Committee

Chair Martin asked about the date for the annual Commission presentation which typically takes place in the fall. It was noted that the Transportation Committee meeting in September is a special meeting, however, the presentation could be made to the Board in September. The date for this presentation will be confirmed.

Presentation to John Hicks

Chair Martin proposed that John's work on the Commission be recognized with a card and gift certificate.

MOVED by Colin Plant, **SECONDED** by Neil Arason, that \$100 be allocated for a gift certificate for John Hicks in appreciation of his service to the Commission. **CARRIED**

9. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2024 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.