



Making a difference...together

Notes of a Meeting of the Transportation Working Group Held March 14, 2022 as a MS Teams Meeting

PRESENT: Staff: E. Sinclair, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning; J. Hicks, Senior Transportation Planner, Regional and Strategic Planning; M. MacIntyre, Manager, Planning Resource Management and Development; M. Solomon, Park Operations Supervisor North; C. Stewart, Planner, Regional Parks; C. MacKenzie (recorder)

Also present: J. Clary, Township of Esquimalt; B. DeMaere, Town of Sidney; R. Ding, District of Oak Bay, R. Kenny, City of Victoria; H. Lockhart, City of Colwood; M. Mahovich, City of Langford; R. Mattson, District of Sooke ; T. McKay, District of Saanich; M. Pearson, Province of British Columbia, MoTI; A. Pickard, District of Central Saanich; J. Rosenberg, Town of View Royal; P. Webber, Province of British Columbia, MoTI; B. Martin (District of North Saanich)

ABSENT: L. Mullins, BC Transit.

EXEMPT: L. Beckett, District of Highlands; K. Campbell, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area; J. Carter, District of Sooke; S. Hurst, District of Metchosin; I. Lawrence, Manager, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Planning; J. Starke, Manager Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 pm.

E. Sinclair provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

I. Approval of Agenda

The Transportation Working Group approved the agenda.

II. Priority Business

1) Connected and consistent regional trails network

a) Detour guidelines

J. Hicks discussed the desire for regional cooperation in relation to trail detour guidelines. He indicated there is significant advocacy from the public for consistency and transparency around what to expect when detours are required, particularly in relation to Triple A facilities.

The District of Saanich is planning on creating a detour policy later this year and the City of Victoria identified that they have nothing formal but apply a AAA lens. M. Solomon from Regional Parks added that municipal input is considered.

ACTION: Options for preparing a common detour guideline will be explored at future meetings.

b) Consistency of crossings

J. Hicks explained that having consistency in user experience at trail crossings would be favorable.

ACTION: J. Hicks will reach out to individual members to discuss how best to advance consistency and bring back the findings to the group.

c) Trail widening and lighting

J. Hicks noted that CRD effort on trail widening, and lighting will be focused on the urban sections of the Galloping Goose regional trail. Drivers for this work include increased trail use, faster observed travel speeds and changing size of mobility devices, including e-bikes. The group observed that the need for a coordinated approach on detours will be critical when trail widening gets underway.

T. McKay asked about the funding strategy to advance trail widening, noting that reliance on grants could be risky. M. McIntyre indicated that there were no additional funding sources but that they were looking at developing a capital planning process to identify matching requirements under the grant. R. Kenny and T. McKay stated that it would be beneficial to develop secure dedicated funding streams for such important regional infrastructure projects.

2) Traffic Safety

a) Default speed reduction pilot update (Distinct of Saanich)

T. McKay noted that the default speed reduction pilot was on hold. The District of Saanich is planning on developing a policy around speed limits based on guidance from National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) and will report out to the group for further discussion on coordination and next steps at a later date.

b) BC Association of Police Chief's – Safety Calendar- Distracted Driving/Occupant Restraint Campaign

J. Hicks advised that the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) follows this calendar in determining its work plan. TSC is currently developing screen and print materials related to distracted driving.

c) Capital Regional District (CRD) Ready Step Roll and CRD Traffic Safety Commission – Let's get visible – Pedestrian and Cyclist visibility

J. Hicks advised that the "Let's get visible" campaign has been successful, both with Ready Step Roll schools and with broader community events. The campaign promotes the importance of being visible in low-light conditions, with education for both drivers and vulnerable road users.

III. Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

a) School based TDM – Ready Step Roll

J. Hicks noted there are fewer school applicants to the 2022-23 Ready Step Roll cohort, due to pandemic fatigue within school administration and parent advisory councils. Efforts for this year will be shifted to undertaking a program review and launching a scaled-up application to other sectors (see item below for more information).

M. Malhovich from the City of Langford shared her positive experience with the initiative, specifically 'Walk & Wheel for 5' template signage and strong relationship with School District 62. The group agreed a consistent regional approach to signage is of value. A. Pickard suggested Keating Elementary school would be a good school to review again post highway infrastructure changes. T. McKay noted working with other school districts would be useful.

b) Workplace TDM – Department of National Defense (DND)

J. Hicks noted CRD is looking to build on the lessons learned from school travel planning to pilot a workforce initiative for CRD to extend to the school network planning.

IV. Update from February 16, 2022 Transportation Committee

1) Equity Staff Report – approved motions and work plan

J. Hicks noted the Board has directed staff to undertake a pilot project on the disparity in gender use of the regional trails and to develop equity lens to transportation decision making.

V. Additional Business

1) Federal Government Active Transportation Fund Applications

The following plan partners intend to apply for the Federal grant: CRD Parks/MoTI, District of North Saanich, District of Saanich, Township of Esquimalt, District of Sooke and City of Victoria.

2) Partner Baselines

J. Hicks noted the baselines have been summarised. The results show that partners are generally working towards the same vision and goals. Showed intrinsic link between climate and transportation along with differences in reporting and setting targets.

3) Origin and Destination Household Survey Update

J. Hicks informed the group that the survey will be starting in the fall. Additional questions will be added in relation to ebikes.

4) Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (PCMP) and Bike Maps

E. Sinclair indicated that the PCMP had served the region well. However now that most partners have developed their own active transportation plans it was no longer serving its purpose. She indicated that the network plan as shown by the bike map was still important to show connectivity gaps, aspirations and changes over time. She indicated that CRD will work to update the map. J. Hicks mentioned that the current bike map was changed at the last minute to reflect public concerns relayed to municipal partners in relation to shared streets. Some shared streets have been removed.

ACTION: CRD staff will set up individual meetings to discuss updated PCMP network mapping later in Q2.

VI. Adjournment

The Transportation Working Group meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm to May 9, 2022.