

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
(Meeting held virtually)

AMENDED

- Members:** Erin Anderson, RoadSafetyBC
Corey Burger, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Chris Foord, Community Member
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Centre for Youth and Society, UVic
Fred Haynes, CRD Director
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic
Jade Yehia, Island Health
- Associates:** Deputy Chief Mark Fisher, Oak Bay Police
John Hicks, CRD
Sgt. Ryan O'Neill, Victoria Police
S/Sgt. Andy Walsh, Saanich Police
- Regrets:** Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
S/Sgt. Ron Cronk, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Shawn Haley, MOTI
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Joe Perkins, Media
Rudi Wetselaar, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting came to order at 12:10 pm and introductions were made.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

CRD Fred Haynes has put his name forward as Chair. Other nominations were called for three times and as none were received, Director Fred Haynes was acclaimed as Chair for 2021.

Chair Haynes asked for nominations for Vice-Chair and suggested that to have gender balance, a female should be considered. As no member put their name forward and as several members were absent, it was agreed to postpone the election of a Vice-Chair until the next meeting.

Action: *Election of a Vice-Chair will be carried forward to the February meeting*

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Corey Burger, that the agenda be approved with the addition of the following item: **CARRIED**

- Commission input re the proposed 40 km/h speed limit pilot project

3. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2020

MOVED by Corey Burger, **SECONDED** by Paweena Sukhawathanakul, that the minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 2020 be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Haynes commented that he is delighted to be here and is looking forward to some good conversations. One thing we have heard from the CRD Board is that they would like the Commission to be more active in bringing forward recommendations and resolutions.

5. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

- **Inclusion/equity Statement for the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship Application**
At the December meeting, Corey Burger and Janelle Hatch brought forward a suggested inclusion/equity statement for the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship application.

"The CRD strives to be a place where inclusion is paramount and people are treated with dignity regardless of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or economic status."

The scholarship applications are evaluated based on academic achievement, financial need as expressed in the covering letter, and community service record.

Option 1: We welcome applications for this scholarship from all groups

Option 2: We strongly encourage applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, racialized persons and those who identify as 2SLGBTQ+

After discussion at the December meeting, it was agreed to combine the wording from options 1 and 2 and bring back a revised statement to the January meeting.

MOVED by Corey Burger, **SECONDED** by Chris Foord, that the above inclusion/equity statement be added to the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship application and that option one and two be merged to read as follows: We welcome applications for this scholarship from all groups. We strongly encourage applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, racialized persons and those who identify as 2SLGBTQ+. **CARRIED**

6. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks gave a budget update. A new budget of approximately \$73-74,000 has come through. There is a significant carryover of approximately \$40,000 from last year because we were unable to continue with some of our grant programs due to the pandemic; also meeting costs were much less. We have a substantial amount of funds and it would be a good opportunity this year to consider doing some significant projects.

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Bill Laughlin, that the budget update be received for information. **CARRIED**

➤ Motions from Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee Nov. 18 meeting re requests to TSC for information

At the December meeting, in response to a request from the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee, discussion had been held regarding doing some research on the effectiveness of red-light cameras in the region. John Hicks noted that parameters are still being determined and he will be reaching out to some of our partners to get a defined scope.

Action: Carry forward to the February meeting

➤ Near miss data for vulnerable users

John Hicks had reached out to a couple local organizations, however, it is quite challenging to get recent data. He will continue to work on this, along with Corey Burger.

Action: Carry forward to the February meeting

MOVED by Corey Burger, **SECONDED** by Chris Foord, that the updates on the effectiveness of red-light cameras and near miss data for vulnerable road users be received for information. **CARRIED**

7. Member Updates

• RoadSafetyBC

Erin Anderson commented that continuation of the pandemic has affected some of their operations. Issuing of the driver medical examination reports has stopped on the recommendation of the medical community.

Plans for revitalizing the road safety strategy are continuing. A townhall was held in December and the strategy for the next five years is currently being reviewed and written.

• ICBC

No update

- **Youth and Children**

No update

- **Seniors**

Paweena Sukhawathanakul noted that another wave of study for local seniors is being implemented, particularly continuing work on cognitive mobile assessments and working remotely with seniors during this time. A new measure that is of relevance to the Commission would be driving patterns during the pandemic and hopefully some of that feedback will be helpful.

- **CRD**

John Hicks reported that the new active and safe routes to schools programs is rolling out into the Westshore. The program will also be taking place in some middle schools this year.

The regional trails report is currently being finalized and it will be brought forward to Committee in the next few months.

The CRD Board directed that a new transportation committee be formed, and priorities be established across the region with each municipality and agency to determine a prioritized list of projects basically following on the South Island Transportation Strategy. This would inform an advocacy approach down the line with the province and other partners.

- **IRSU**

No update

- **CVSE**

No update

- **Vancouver Island Safety Council**

No update

- **GVCC**

Corey Burger noted that Winter Bike to Work Day is coming up on February 12 and will be a virtual event. Also, planning is continuing on 2021 projects, including training, etc., however, plans may change due to the ongoing pandemic.

- **Walk On, Victoria**

No update

- **Municipal Police Forces**

- Deputy Chief Mark Fisher, Oak Bay Police – No specific report. Focus has been on traffic enforcement in the last few weeks

- S/Sgt. Andy Walsh, Saanich Police – No specific report. This is his first Commission meeting as he has recently transferred to the traffic safety unit

- Sgt. Ryan O'Neill, Victoria Police - Current focus is speed enforcement in school zones and distracted driving

- **BC Transit**

No update

- **MOTI**

No update

- **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project**

Fred Grouzet noted that they are ready to work on the third ad and need to confirm a topic for that. The first two ads were on cannabis edibles and distracted driving.

Action: Topic for next ad to be added as an item to the February agenda

8. Other Business

- **Proposed 40 km/h Speed Limit Pilot Project**

Chair Fred Haynes asked Commission members for input into this project and discussion took place as follows.

Ryan O'Neill commented that the pilot project did not seem to be supported by evidence to say it would reduce crashes in residential areas. Enforcement will also be an issue. The pilot project is not going to go over very well if police do not have the ability to enforce it. Anything done in the community needs to be evidence based and enforcement based.

Corey Burger suggested we should be writing a letter to the CRD Board through the Planning, Transportation and Services Committee asking all municipalities to participate in the pilot project. Chair Haynes noted that every municipality has been invited to join but Langford, View Royal, Colwood and Sooke have indicated they will not participate at this time. A letter from the Commission to municipalities could get them to rethink their position, i.e., a statement that the TSC has a positive understanding of the pilot project and thought it of value to reach out to municipalities not currently participating to ask them to reconsider.

Chris Foord commented on the proposal from the TSC three years ago for point-to-point speed cameras on Malahat and believes speeding on the Malahat is a far more dangerous happening than speeding on residential streets. However, if the pilot project gives the province the encouragement to upgrade the MVA, it may be worth doing.

Chair Haynes said that the proposed speed limit reduction is something that has been on the UBCM agenda for many years and Saanich and other municipalities are proceeding with the application for the pilot project. Once the application is in, the Ministry will provide details in terms of signage, education, scope of their expectations, etc. He agrees that it needs to be evidence based and enforcement based, and once the policy is in place, they can work forward with that with the police forces. There is some evidence to suggest punitive levels of ticketing will change behaviour. Currently, there is confusion about the difference in speed limits between jurisdictions, so having a uniform speed limit throughout the region would be effective. There is no harm in reducing speed and it is part of the continuum of improving the feeling of safety on the streets. The three-year pilot project will provide evidence that is lacking. It would be inherent on the CRD Traffic Safety Commission to support an opportunity to get data through a pilot project and he is hoping for a motion from the Commission for a letter to municipalities.

MOVED by Corey Burger, **SECONDED** by Chris Foord, that the TSC request that the Transportation Committee ask the CRD Board to write a letter to municipalities who have not agreed to participate in the 40km per hour default speed limit pilot project to rethink their position, and to thank those councils who have already chosen to participate. **CARRIED**

Opposed: Bill Laughlin

Bill Laughlin asked whether accident statistics have been looked at and suggested education is the way we should be proceeding. How do we measure the success of the project? Chair Haynes responded that education is important, and the Province will come back with the design of the project with expectations around education. The point of the project is to get answers.

Ryan O'Neill said that police do not have the resources to deal with large numbers of complaints about speeding on residential streets and past surveillance has not shown that this is a problem. The issue is on the main arteries. He believes the speed limit reduction will cause a lot of problems.

Corey Burger commented on a study from the City of Toronto re reductions to their speed limits which showed significant changes to behaviour without necessarily requiring additional police resources. It will make a big difference if we can get the Westshore municipalities on board.

Chair Haynes said he understands police concerns, however, in other regions where speed limits have been reduced, the concerns about enforcement did not materialize. Saanich are prepared to look at more resources for their police department if needed. He believes there are more positives than negatives in going ahead with the pilot project.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2021 at noon. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.