

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

Members: Neil Arason, Island Health
Corey Burger, Capital Bike
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Collaborative for Youth and Society, UVic
Natalia Heilke, RoadSafetyBC
Victoria Klassen Jeffery, Capital Bike
Sgt. Jereme Leslie, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Steve Martin, Community Member (Chair)
Dean Murdock, CRD Board (Vice-Chair)
Owen Page, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Sean Powell, School District 61
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement

Associates: Jay Douillard, CRD

Regrets: Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Myke Labelle, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic
Keith Vass, Media

Guest: Dale Bracewell, Mobility Foresight

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Martin provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Murray Fyfe, that the agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2025

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Frederick Grouzet, that the minutes of the meeting held on March 11, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

No remarks

5. Presentation on CRD Traffic Safety Commission Governance – Dale Bracewell

A brief overview of the presentation follows.

The purpose of the presentation is to engage Commission members and set up a conversation around a survey regarding the contributions of the Commission.

The presentation today will highlight what the journey has been so far in the CRD effort to consider the establishment of a regional transportation service and look at governance options. Two of the key things worth noting that were being asked in the establishment of the regional transportation service were to consolidate and streamline existing CRD transportation functions and help create one shared voice for senior government funding.

Engagement began in the fall of 2023, with regional transportation governance options to be presented to the Transportation Committee in June 2025.

Based on feedback from local government councillors and staff, the original proposed category names were updated to be more descriptive and clearer about the scope of programs that could be included when establishing a new regional transportation service and road safety came up predominant through that. Also, the consensus was that the CRD should move forward with all eight of the categories.

CRD staff worked on defining the regional transportation service, which is now referred to as Bylaw 4360. In September 2024, this was brought through the Committee and then to the Board.

In the current governance model, the Traffic Safety Commission reports to the Transportation Standing Committee along with the Transportation Working Group. If there is an establishment of a regional transportation service, one of the first things that's being recommended is to revisit whether governance will stay the same and to think about what else might be better in terms of governance and reporting structures in the future.

Through the survey, Commission members are invited to provide feedback on the following.

- Reflection on safety importance and impact
- Collaboration and Communication
- Improving the current governance model
- Exploring a new governance model
- Road safety vision and leadership
- Support through any governance transition

A link to the survey, along with a copy of this presentation, will be sent out to members on May 14. Members will have until May 27 to complete the survey. After that, CRD staff will review the feedback and create a summary, and that summary will inform the report back on governance.

Discussion followed the presentation and touched on the following points:

- There have been a lot of good educational things and other projects that have come from the Commission over the years, but our bylaw does limit our role in terms of traffic safety.
- Don't want to lose anything that is being done well but it might look a little different.
- See this as a huge opportunity to grow and strengthen and do more than we have been able to do in the past because of the constraints. Excited to hear that we are thinking very broadly and openly about the different ways we could operate.
- Opportunity to do some influencing and bring forward great ideas.
- The idea of the expansion of staffing is at a high level at this point. Working now towards more immediate things. Details need to be presented to the Transportation Committee first.
- Updating the regional transportation plan is a key immediate priority. That will take up a big part of the staff capacity.
- Will there be some consideration of the importance of a body that does make recommendations, has the power to initiate, identify, and come up with new ideas, i.e., the thinking work that elected officials deserve to have presented to them.
- Comment that active transportation is listed in the same category as road safety on the list which seems like an anomaly, however, it was noted that it did not materialize that way in the bylaw.
- There is a lot more we could do around traffic planning which would add to health outcomes.
- Suggestion to have road safety and public health in one category and move active transportation in with transit. Noted that it was felt important to keep transit as a standalone. The bylaw itself is a lot clearer in terms of categories.

Dale suggested that members, when completing the survey and considering the governance structure, tie their responses to the outcome of improved safety, as this will better serve the committee as they receive the feedback.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

➤ Update on Transportation Working Group

A special meeting was held between the Transportation Working Group and the Development Planners Advisory Committee to initiate some work on the regional transportation plan process and get some input on the strategic direction for the new regional transportation plan.

Another meeting of the Transportation Working Group is scheduled for June. One of the agenda items will be speed limits, with participants sharing their various policies across the region regarding speed limit reductions. Jay will provide an update to the Commission after that meeting.

➤ Grant Request – Vancouver Island Safety Council Rider Refresher Training

The Commission Grant Subcommittee reviewed the request from the Vancouver Island Safety Council for continued funding of \$5500 for their Rider Refresher Training Course. The Subcommittee saw considerable merit in this project and unanimously recommended funding approval.

MOVED by Frederick Grouzet, **SECONDED** by Jereme Leslie, that the request by the Vancouver Island Safety Council for funding in the amount of \$5500 to carry out a rider refresher training course be approved.

CARRIED

➤ **Cyclists and Bus Lanes**

This issue was raised by Capital Bike at the February meeting. At the time, it was acknowledged that cyclists are permitted to use bus lanes, however, several questions were raised, and it was decided to defer this matter for three months to allow for further research.

Sgt. Jerome Leslie stated that the language is clear, and cyclists are permitted to use the right-hand portion of bus lanes. Owen Page mentioned there is confusion around the overhead signage, as there are differences between signs in areas managed by Victoria and those under provincial jurisdiction. He is working towards getting the signs changed for consistency.

During additional discussion, it was mentioned that even though it is legal, cycling in bus lanes is not the preferred option and most cyclists would rather be riding on the Galloping Goose Trail. It was suggested that enhancing the quality of the Trail could help alleviate traffic congestion on Douglas Street. The CRD is currently undertaking a safety enhancement study on the regional trail network and the trail widening and lighting project will have a significant impact on improving trail safety and user comfort.

7. **Priority Business**

➤ **Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship**

The Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship is open for applications until June 27. Chair Martin asked Colleen Woodger if she could touch base with Ron Cronk and Doug Cripps to review any applications received and put forward a recommendation for a scholarship winner.

It was agreed that the scholarship should be more widely promoted, especially to post-secondary institutions. Sean Powell noted that he can help disseminate the information to career centres in secondary schools and said he would also like to be part of the sub-committee that will be reviewing the applications.

Besides advertising on social media, it was agreed that distributing a printed version would be beneficial and Jay will follow up with CRD communications about this.

➤ **Budget Update**

There has been little change to the budget with only advertising and meeting expenses spent so far. There is \$40,000 available in third party payments.

➤ **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. Jerome Leslie noted that police agencies in the region will be participating in a large campaign to highlight the focus on high risk driving this month. A motorcycle skills day will be held at the end of the month to wrap up the campaign.

8. **Other Business**

9. **Member Updates**

➤ **RoadSafetyBC - Natalia Heilke**

No update

➤ **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**

- ICBC is a strong sponsor of the motorcycle skills day which will be held at the end of May
- The May campaign has a large volunteer-based component
- The road safety speaker tour is wrapping up. Three speakers toured the island, with 42 out of 45 schools participating, which is the largest number ever.
- Have been in the schools as part of the ready, step, roll program. Going to do something different next month with a middle school that has joined the active transportation program and there will be a distracted road user course which will be addressing all angles of using the roads with distractions.
- Attended AVICC and met many elected officials. There was lots of talk about road improvements and pedestrian safety.

- Participated in Westshore's Fire and Life Safety Expo. There were 1100 grade 4 students from Sooke School District attending. ICBC did 32 presentations in two days and focused on educating about elephant's feet, shark teeth, and zebra crossings and changing the way they talk about students crossing the road.
 - Working with the Intercultural Association of BC, making sure people have skills to navigate the community.
- **Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker**
No update
- **Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul**
No update
- **CRD – Jay Douillard**
- Report coming out on June 11 when the Board will be making a decision on the transportation service. On June 25 there will be another report coming out on governance. The regional transportation planning process is underway.
- **Integrated Road Safety Unit – Sgt. Jereme Leslie**
- Waiting to hear back from the Westshore Rebels Football Team regarding doing a talk on road safety. Possibly may be coming to the Commission with a request for funding to provide pizza and gift certificates.
 - The high-risk driving campaign is ongoing for the month of May.
 - Coordinating with the Greater Victoria Police Foundation on their regional junior police camp which is meant for some younger kids and will be talking to them about road safety and pedestrian safety.
- **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Myke Labelle**
No update
- **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
No update
- **Capital Bike – Victoria Klassen Jeffery**
- They are gearing up for Go by Bike week with celebration rides planned for May 31 to kick off the week which goes until June 6. There will be 13 celebration stations.
 - As the weather gets better, there will be lots of bicycle education programs going on, including a program to enhance bike skills for young people.
 - Attended Westshore Earth Day and a survey showed not many students ride their bikes to school. They are looking at expanding their presence in the Westshore.
- **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
- Informally endorsing the effort to change the law to end right turn on red at intersections and understand this was presented as a motion at last night's Saanich Council meeting. Corey will send some information about this that will be forwarded to members.
- **Municipal Police Forces/RCMP**
No update
- **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
No update
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - Owen Page**
- Lots of maintenance activities are ramping up for the summer. Mowing and sweeping programs taking place on Highway 14, Blanshard and Douglas and Highway 17, Trans Canada Highway.
 - A number of capital projects have just started in the last few months. The Colquitz River Bridge expansion is still ongoing. That ties into a new project for bus on shoulder lanes between McKenzie Avenue and the Burnside West exit by the Old Island Highway.
 - In the last couple of weeks major capital projects for paving have started up. They will be doing two years' worth of paving in our area starting with the north end of the Malahat and Shawnigan Lake Road moving south into Veterans Memorial Parkway, doing the whole stretch between Sooke Road and Millstream. Then the paving crew goes to the Pat Bay Highway north of Beacon to Lands End and then moves over to McTavish and West Saanich Road. Hoping to secure funding to have shoulder widening on the north side of West Saanich Road which cyclists have been requesting.

➤ **Island Health – Neil Arason**

- Neil has followed up with the CRD presenter at our March meeting re the regional trail safety study. She has provided a great response to the four points he was asking about. He commented that it is an important opportunity for us to provide input.

➤ **Working Group for UVic Collaborative for Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
No update

➤ **Adam Defrane, MADD Canada**
No update

➤ **Sean Powell, School Districts**

- Schools will be out in five weeks so just a reminder that there will be approximately 54,000 children on the south island that will be changing their patterns and behaviours and people will need to be even more cautious.

10. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on June 10, 2025 at 1:00 pm. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.