

**CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

Members: Ron Cronk, Vancouver Island Safety Council (EP)
Chris Foord, Community Member (EP)
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Centre for Youth and Society, UVic (EP)
Fred Haynes, CRD Director (Chair) (EP)
Sgt. Jereme Leslie, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit (EP)
Joe Perkins, Media (EP)
Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul, Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health, UVic (Vice-Chair) (EP)
Colleen Woodger ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement (EP)

Associates: John Hicks, CRD
S/Sgt. Andy Walsh, Saanich Police (EP)

Regrets: Erin Anderson, RoadSafetyBC
Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Corey Burger, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Shawn Haley, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Rudi Wetselaar, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
Jade Yehia, Island Health

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

EP – Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm., with Vice-Chair Sukhawathanakul acting as Chair. Chair Haynes joined the meeting later.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Chris Foord, that the agenda be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2021

MOVED by Jereme Leslie, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2021 be approved as distributed. **CARRIED**

3. Chair's Remarks

No remarks

4. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ **Commission membership/vacancies**

John Hicks reported that it has been challenging to get representation from some of the member agencies. There has been no representative from BC Ambulance for a long time as their operational capacity has shifted and they have put a lot of their staff back into the field. Also, with the pandemic, the Island Health medical health officer position will remain vacant this year, although it is anticipated it will be filled again in 2022. John has been in contact with the school districts about a representative and is hoping to hear back soon. The Chair will reach out to some of the other groups to see about their participation.

➤ **Update on Advertising**

Frederick Grouzet reported that he is currently working with CHEK news on ads for the two topics as identified at our last meeting, i.e., driving with cyclists on the road and distraction by vehicle passengers. Joe Perkins commented that the CHEK creative team is working on scripts and they should be finished later today. They will be meeting with Frederick Grouzet tomorrow to get approval and then shooting can move ahead.

Chris Foord suggested that we should have one concise message from each of the ads put on a vinyl board for the side or back of a vehicle. Colleen Woodger asked for the creative to be made available in digital format so it can be used by member agencies through their own channels and Joe Perkins advised that once the ads are shot and edited, they can be put in an MP4 format and sent out to members for their use. It has always been the intent that members use their channels to help get the message out, particularly those with networks that are engaged with youth.

5. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks reported there has been little change in the budget. The grant that was approved in February has been paid out. We are in a healthy financial position and if some of the non-profits, etc., are looking for funding to do education campaigns, we are in a good position this year to move forward with that.

Also, on that topic, there has been some discussion on how we deal with smaller non-profits through the grant application process so they are not discouraged from applying. They may not have the resources, background or staffing to enable them to be as detailed in their analysis but we don't want to discourage them from doing important hands-on safety work. As chair of the grant application sub-committee, Vice-Chair Sukhawathanakul said that we do encourage ongoing consultation with applicants, work with organizations to narrow the scope of their project and provide feedback. We can let some of the smaller groups know that there is assistance available.

➤ Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship

The updated 2021 scholarship application has been posted on our website. Members are asked to get the word out about this scholarship to their networks. An inclusion/equity statement has been added to the application this year. John Hicks said that he will contact the community associations and school districts. It was suggested that a flyer be made up and distributed.

The question was raised of awarding more than one scholarship, however, according to our bylaw, we are only able to award one and the bylaw would need to be changed if we wanted to give out more. Last year we were able to present a second scholarship because of money that was donated by a different group. If we were to get additional donations this year, we may be able to award a second one again.

Action: John Hicks will investigate options and report back

➤ Update on the MVA Pilot Project Study move to 30 km/h from 40 km/h

This item has been brought back for information with the change from the original proposal of 40 km/h to 30 km/h. The Board received the motion from the Commission saying there was general support for the pilot project. The approved motion referred to a speed limit of 40 km/h, however, the Transportation Committee adjusted it to take out the speed reference and make it more general in nature as Victoria had already approved their 30 km/h pilot. Although the Commission gave some support to this pilot project, it is being led by Saanich.

Discussion was held on this issue with comments as follows.

- Why was this brought forward to the TSC in the first place as it is not a traffic safety issue and is based on livability, not crash data.
- It is fraught with issues that were brought forward by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police traffic safety committee. They are provincial experts in traffic safety, and they see a major issue with this project going forward. Driver confusion throughout the CRD is one of the main issues of concern. By legislation, municipalities can post their own speed limit signs as they feel are appropriate so why muddy the waters with driver confusion. This does not create public safety and will erode public trust and confidence in the Commission if the public believe we have supported it.
- Speed reader boards have shown that 90% of people overestimate speed of vehicles going by, and it is often perception vs reality. Could have unintended consequences.
- Police have had concerns from beginning of discussion at this table when this was brought as an information item. They have provided statistics to show there isn't a problem on these

- roads with speeding and their resources are better utilized in high crash zones. Enforcement experts at the table are not being listened to.
- The Commission relies on statistical and evidence-based work but with this issue, things seem to have changed.
 - Engineers set speed limits and we are not qualified to make engineering decisions.
 - Seems like this was rushed. Many members were missing when the vote was taken at the January meeting, but this reflects on every member of the Commission. If we had all the information that was received this week, would the voting have been different? There should have been more time for members to consider all the information.
 - IRSU was not represented at that meeting, so there was no police vote. It is not a true reflection of the Commission. The statement needs to reflect that it was not unanimous support.
 - For future recommendations, we need to be sure that we have heard each piece and we're working together on a recommendation that truly reflects what the Commission's position is.
 - The proposal did have an outline of how statistics are going to be investigated. The numbers will come and this is a pilot project for that reason. The engineering/infrastructure piece is out of our jurisdiction.
 - When it came to the January meeting, it was time sensitive to fit in with the Board schedule. The City of Victoria approach has been to say they will collect the data, see if there is a change in statistics and report back on that. In terms of the engineering piece, it is something we haven't traditionally been involved with.
 - We have only ever taken two recommendations through to the Board. The CRD Board Chair has asked that the Commission bring forward more recommendations. There are still some grey areas as to what the Commission is. Our core focus is on education and the media and getting messaging across from our partners. We need to be strong with our evidence-based work otherwise there is a concern about credibility. Something to consider as we move forward is whether we should be looking at engineering or whether we should really get back to the TSC core purpose.
 - We could look at making some recommendations for approaches to potential challenges that we see regarding traffic safety.
 - A simplistic approach for all road users is best. In favour of speed reduction, but the main solution is simply having municipalities erect their speed limit signs as they are allowed to do. Much less confusing for drivers and it can be enforced.
 - The education piece might be somewhat helpful but ultimately looking at a complete revamp of the Motor Vehicle Act. If this was a problem like the Malahat where people were dying, then we could weigh in, but this has nothing to do with traffic safety.
 - Concern expressed regarding conflict of interest and ability to have an open and informed discussion.
 - The motion has already gone forward as part of package re support for pilot project and it would be challenging to go backwards. We should look at the process and have information come a month in advance when a decision is required. Members should recuse themselves if needed so decisions can be made on merit. We should think about a plan and process for making future recommendations with a timeline so that everyone has the information.

Action: *Add process for making future recommendations to May agenda*

6. Member Updates

- **RoadSafetyBC – Erin Anderson**
No update
- **ICBC – Colleen Woodger**
 - Had a successful distracted driving campaign with much support from local enforcement.
 - Much of ICBC focus is moving towards enhanced care model which starts on May 1. It is a big piece of work that consistently kept moving through the pandemic as changes were made to the day-to-day organization.
 - Planning the speaker tour to try and get speakers into the schools. It has been difficult this year but grateful to the schools that are able to host a speaker. Hopeful this will get back to full participation next year.

- Making plans in the coming weeks for the high-risk driving campaign taking place in May which addresses speed and high-risk behaviour.
 - Working on staying engaged with volunteers.
 - **Youth and Children – Hailey Bergstrom-Parker**
No update
 - **Seniors – Dr. Paweena Sukhawathanakul**
No update
 - **CRD – John Hicks**
No update
 - **Integrated Road Safety Unit - Sgt. Jereme Leslie**
 - A successful distracted driving and occupant restraint campaign has been completed. A lot of enforcement took place in 12 different communities within the CRD.
 - Currently working towards the May high-risk driving campaign.
 - **Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement – Rudi Wetselaar**
No update
 - **Vancouver Island Safety Council – Ron Cronk**
 - May is their province-wide motorcycle awareness month. Will be reaching out to some TSC partners to assist with messaging. Registration is moving quickly and is packed so there will be some new riders on the road. There has been a high number of motorcycle fatalities in the CRD in the last few years so will be striving to let people know they are out there.
 - **Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition – Corey Burger**
No update
 - **Walk On, Victoria – Todd Litman**
No update
 - **Municipal Police Forces – S/Sgt. Andy Walsh, Saanich Police**
 - Have been spending a fair amount of time in school zones since spring break and focusing on that right now.
 - **BC Transit – Dallas Perry**
No update
 - **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – Shawn Haley**
 - John Hicks advised that Highway 14 projects are coming to completion right now, with some safety improvements as part of that project. The final drawings for the Highway 17 project have just been received and that work is moving forward.
 - **Working Group for UVic Centre on Youth and Society Joint Project – Dr. Frederick Grouzet**
Update on ads already given
 - **Island Health - Jade Yehia**
No update
7. **Other Business**
No additional business
8. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on May 11, 2021 at noon. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:27 pm.