

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, July 9, 2020
CRD Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street

- Members:** Corey Burger, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
S/Sgt. Ron Cronk, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Chris Foord, Community Member
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health (Vice-Chair)
Shawn Haley, MOTI
Janelle Hatch, Island Health
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Todd Litman, Walk On, Victoria
Cliff McNeil-Smith, CRD Director (Chair)
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety and Community Involvement
- Associates:** Sgt. Al Gurzinski, Saanich Police
John Hicks, CRD
Sgt. Ryan O'Neill, Victoria Police
- Regrets:** Erin Anderson, RoadSafetyBC
Marnice Jones, School Districts
Joe Perkins, Media
Rudi Wetselaar, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
- Participating Remotely:** Hailey Bergstrom-Parker, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Dr. Frederick Grouzet, UVic Centre for Youth and Society (for Dr. P. Sukhawathanakul)
- Guests:** Colin Plant, CRD Board Chair

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

TSC Chair McNeil-Smith called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm and acknowledged the Commission meeting was being held on First Nations territory.

He welcomed members and associate members in attendance as well as those participating remotely.

The following items were added to the agenda:

Under Business Arising:

- Update on request from ICBC for crash data
- Update on next campaign on distracted driving

Under Priority Business:

- Funding Application from Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society
- Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2020

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Janelle Hatch, that the minutes of the meeting held on March 12, 2020 be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair McNeil-Smith thanked CRD staff for the work done during the pandemic, particularly regarding cleaning and preparation of this room so that we can meet in person.

He expressed hope that everyone has kept well over the last four months. As individuals and communities, we have adapted extremely well. He gave particular thanks to Dr. Murray Fyfe and

Dr. Richard Stanwick for the remarkable work done by Island Health during the pandemic. He is also encouraged to see everyone in attendance today. There is a great deal of uncertainty ahead, but from the success we have had individually and collectively, we should have optimism and confidence as we move forward in our communities and with our Commission work.

4. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ **List of campaigns completed over last two years**

John Hicks said that a list has been prepared but some updates are needed.

Action: John Hicks will bring this information to the next meeting

➤ **Update from Working Group on Evidence and Data**

Vice-Chair Fyfe advised there hasn't been a meeting of the working group since the last TSC meeting. The two components of the working group are to gather data to inform TSC planning, as well as ongoing review of published literature. It was planned for members to bring potential research topics for discussion at the April meeting, however, that meeting did not take place and a discussion will be held at a future meeting on what topics we would like to have researched. It is also planned to have UVic grad students doing literature searches for us on specific topics, and to do ongoing searches on our own.

Action: Bring forward to the next meeting for discussion

➤ **Follow up on request for point-to-point cameras on the Malahat**

Discussion was held about asking the CRD Board to follow up on the 2018 survey showing public support for point-to-point speed cameras on the Malahat. Members were in agreement and a proposed motion was considered, however, CRD Board Chair Plant who was in attendance at the meeting, said that he could follow up on this directly by sending a letter to Minister Farnworth asking for a status update and then provide an update to the TSC through Chair McNeil-Smith.

➤ **Update from Communications Working Group**

The working group will meet as soon as possible and provide an update for the next meeting.

Action: Bring forward to the next meeting

➤ **Update on request for ICBC crash data**

Colleen Woodger advised that an internal meeting had been held to see what data ICBC could give to the Commission. She has suggested that ICBC provide a list of what they can make available and the TSC can decide what is appropriate. Colleen is hoping that the request can be prioritized for the Commission. ICBC will continue to liaise with the TSC to get that information to us.

➤ **Update on distracted driving campaign**

Frederick Grouzet advised that he has met with CHEK twice on the design of this campaign. Because behaviours have changed during the pandemic and there has been a big increase in speeding, Frederick asked the Commission to confirm what the priority should be and whether the campaign should be on speeding rather than on distracted driving.

Chair McNeil-Smith asked if there are speeding statistics or other information available from the police. S/Sgt. Ron Cronk replied that habits have changed during the pandemic, but he also said that the police are trying to align campaigns on a provincial, as well as a federal basis. It has been suggested previously that the TSC align campaigns with the police campaigns as that would have the most impact locally. There is one speed campaign a year and it took place in May.

Sgt. Ryan O'Neil commented that distracted driving complaints were down, and speeding complaints rose exponentially, with extreme speeds because of less traffic. Sgt. Al Gurzinski said that during the pandemic there was a lot of excessive speeding. Saanich police had high tolerances but have moved them down again. They are still seeing a lot of distracted driving. While complaints about speeding are constant, data from speed reader boards show that a lot of the complaints on residential streets are mostly unfounded and it is more a perception problem. He noted they are constantly doing enforcement especially around intersections and construction zones and do see a lot of speeders.

Chair McNeil-Smith asked if there is a particular campaign coming up in the next couple of months on the police calendar that we would want to target. It was noted a counterattack campaign takes place in July and August and distracted driving in September. We do have the video produced by UVic around cannabis impairment which will be running until we have an alternative. It was decided to aim for an ad for September on distracted driving to match the police calendar. Frederick Grouzet confirmed that it is possible to have something ready.

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the TSC will focus on a campaign for distracted driving to be ready for September. **CARRIED**

Discussion was held on using material from other jurisdictions in our ads and reference was made specifically to two videos on texting, one from Australia brought forward by Bill Laughlin, and one from Quebec brought forward by Frederick Grouzet.

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Bill Laughlin, that permission will be sought to use material from these two ads. **CARRIED**

Action: Bring forward to the next meeting

5. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks advised that with the pandemic and no meetings taking place, there hasn't been an opportunity to spend money, however, \$10,000 was committed to the extension of the contract with CHEK until the end of the year. Also, an additional \$3500 was received for the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship from the Vancouver Island Slain Police Officers fund.

➤ 2020 Priorities

This has already been covered under Business Arising

➤ Applications for Funding

John Hicks provided information on the two applications for funding that have been received, one from the Greater Victoria Placemaking Society and another one from the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society. A working group was established last year to review funding applications using the established criteria and then bring recommendations back to the Commission. Vice-Chair Fyfe will follow up with members of the working group about reviewing the applications.

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the funding applications from the Greater Victoria Placemaking Society and the Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society be reviewed by the working group with recommendations to be brought to the August meeting. **CARRIED**

➤ Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship

Vice-Chair Fyfe provided an update on applications received for the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship which were reviewed by members of the scholarship committee. There were seven applications received and they came from three out of four local school districts, one independent school, and one applicant who is already in post-secondary education. Each of the four scholarship committee members independently reviewed the applications. Of the seven received, there were four applicants that stood out, with a top two and then another two that were close. With the additional funding received for the scholarship from outside sources, it was proposed that four scholarships be given out.

Vice-Chair Fyfe outlined the qualifications of the two applicants who were ranked highest by the committee based on the established criteria.

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Chris Foord, that applicant no. 1 be offered a \$2000 Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship. **CARRIED**

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Todd Litman, that applicant no. 2 be offered a \$2000 Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship. **CARRIED**

Vice-Chair Fyfe outlined the qualifications of applicants who were ranked third and fourth by the committee based on the established criteria and proposed that because of the additional \$3500

received, consideration be given to also providing \$2000 scholarships to these applicants. CRD Board Chair Plant reminded the Commission that the bylaw that was passed to create this scholarship only refers to "one \$2000 scholarship." Vice-Chair Fyfe withdrew his proposal and suggested that as per the recommendations of the scholarship committee, the third and fourth ranked candidates each receive \$1000 scholarships from the additional funds.

MOVED by Murray Fyfe, **SECONDED** by Ron Cronk, that the third and fourth ranked applicants receive scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each. The highest ranked applicant would be awarded a \$2000 scholarship from the Commission budget, with the next three ranked applicants awarded scholarships from additional donations received by the Commission. **CARRIED**

Corey Burger asked whether equity is a consideration for scholarship candidates, i.e., gender, household income, ethnic background. John Hicks said that financial need is part of the criteria and applicants are asked to address that in their cover letter. Other personal information is redacted when the applications are being reviewed. Corey Burger suggested that next year we ask applicants to self-identify on a number of criteria around equity. After additional discussion, the following motion was brought forward.

MOVED by Corey Burger, **SECONDED** by Janelle Hatch, that the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship application form and criteria be brought to the next meeting for discussion on proposed changes around equity. **CARRIED**

Todd Litman suggested that we could differentiate between the scholarship given from CRD funds and others given from the additional funding by using different names. CRD Board Chair Colin Plant pointed out that there is a process that needs to be followed and if the Commission wants to give out more than one scholarship, a request should be made for the bylaw to be changed.

MOVED by Corey Burger, **SECONDED** by Chris Foord, that a request be sent to the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee calling for an amendment to the Commission Bylaw to allow the Commission to award more than one scholarship. **CARRIED**

6. Member Updates

- **RoadSafetyBC**

No update

- **ICBC**

Colleen Woodger commented that with the pandemic, ICBC had to transition very quickly from a face to face business to an online business and transfer over 3000 staff to work from home. She has been working on the road in essential service. Volunteer programs are slowly starting up again and she has been working with the Saanich Police summer students and the reserves, getting them trained. Big thanks to the police for being out there during these times. Road tests are back on and ICBC are reaching out to those whose tests had been cancelled. There are no walk-ins. Check out details at ICBC.com. Patience is appreciated. It's been a challenge getting PPE's for everyone involved. She is also looking at how the school programs can be done.

- **Youth and Children**

Hailey Bergstrom-Parker noted that BCAA staff have been working remotely as well. They have started doing car seat training sessions online and have been updating the website with videos and resources that people can access for child passenger safety.

- **Seniors**

No update

- **CRD**

No update

- **IRSU**

S/Sgt. Ron Cronk commented that it is counterattack month and they are working towards strategies to target impaired drivers

- **CVSE**

No update

- **Vancouver Island Safety Council**

Bill Laughlin noted that there have been two motorcycle fatalities this year and speed was the major contributing factor in both. Also, VISC training has ramped back up. In addition, Bill mentioned the many comments that he received regarding S/Sgt. Ron Cronk and a partner patrolling the Renfrew Loop on their bikes during the pandemic. The visibility of having police out there hit a lot of forums.

- **GVCC**

Corey Burger said that everything has been on pause. Bike to Work week has been postponed until late September and various other rides and training have also been postponed. Numbers on bike counters have shown that cycling is down on weekday and up on weekends. He has heard from bike stores that they can't keep stock in and are doing lots of repairs.

- **Walk On, Victoria**

Todd Litman commented there has been a lot of research among public health professionals about the relationship between travel activity and COVID exposure with both public transit and automobile being considered contagion risks and active transportation the least risky activity. In response, many cities are working to encourage or improve walking and biking conditions. A lot of discussion is taking place among planners about the degree to which that should be both a current and post pandemic strategy. If we are going to recognize the health/infection reduction benefits of a more walkable, bikeable community, there will probably be some interesting implications for the TSC.

- **Municipal Police Forces**

- Sgt. Ryan O'Neill said they will be focusing on impaired driving. Based on some public comments, they are working on a revised enforcement strategy with a modified approach to keep both officers and the public safe and are looking at a few different options.
- Sgt. Al Gurzinski commented that Saanich Police will also be doing an impaired driving campaign this month with at least five roadblocks. The three things they target mostly are impaired driving, speeding, and distracted driving. There doesn't seem to be enough time in the day to do the education or the enforcement and are constantly on speeding. There has been an uptick in motorcycle collisions with two of the last three being caused by rider error.

- **BC Transit**

No update

- **MOTI**

Shawn Haley said that he has recently come back after being away in the north island for seven months and is happy to be back on the TSC. He noted that there are a lot of construction projects going on. The Keating X Road flyover is being explored with some closures taking place while core samples are taken; also work being done along Highway 14, and various other smaller projects.

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

Frederick Grouzet said they are working on putting together a survey around traffic behaviours in the spring which will provide data on whether youth behaviour changed during that time.

7. **Other Business**

8. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on August 13, 2020 at noon at the CRD Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street. On motion, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.