

CRD TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, June 8, 2017

The Lakes Banquet Room, 4670 Elk Lake Drive, Victoria

Members: Leo Belanger, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement
A/S/Sgt. Ron Cronk, CRD Integrated Road Safety Unit
Judy Dryden, Child Passenger Safety Program, BCAA Community Impact
Dr. Murray Fyfe, Medical Health Officer, Island Health
Chris Foord, Community Member (Vice-Chair)
Marnice Jones, School Districts
Bill Laughlin, Vancouver Island Safety Council
Alan Perry, Media
Colin Plant, CRD Director (Chair)
Tina Rogers, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Dr. Richard Stanwick, Island Health
Dr. Holly Tuokko, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, University of Victoria
Colleen Woodger, ICBC Road Safety Division

Associates: S/Sgt. Marc Chateau, Saanich Police
John Hicks, Active Transportation, CRD

Regrets: Jeff Groot, RoadSafetyBC

Guests: Jocelyn Purcell, ICBC
Edward Pullman, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition
Todd Litman, Walk On Victoria

Recording Secretary: Arlene Bowker

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Stanwick noted that a paper led by Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater, UVic, on youth driving and marijuana was chosen at the Canadian Pediatric Society Goldbloom Lecture Series as one of the eight most significant articles. The paper is considered important from a policy perspective for all of Canada. Dr. Fyfe was one of the authors on this paper.

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Judy Dryden, that the agenda be approved. **CARRIED**

2. **Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2017**

MOVED by Richard Stanwick, **SECONDED** by Murray Fyfe, that the minutes of the meeting held on May 11, 2017 be approved.

3. **Chair's Remarks**

Chair Plant welcomed two guests: Edward Pullman from the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and Todd Litman from Walk On Victoria. A recommendation has gone forward that the Commission voting membership be expanded to include representatives from GVCC and WOV, however, it has not yet been approved.

The deadline for the video contest has passed and only one entry was received. The video was shown and as the entrant has met the criteria, will be awarded the prize. It was agreed that with some enhancement, the video could be used as part of a CTV ad campaign. It could be a good ad to run around back to school time which would give a couple of months to work on the technical aspects.

Members expressed disappointment and surprise that only one entry was received. One possible reason for lack of entries was that the computer prize was likely not the incentive we had hoped it would be as many young people already have good computers. It was also pointed out that it would have been better to have the contest earlier in the school year, possibly with a longer lead time and more follow up after the initial information was distributed. The idea of awarding a cash prize for the student and school was suggested as an option for any future competitions. While this idea could be explored, the Commission may not be able to award cash. Another suggestion was to offer free driving lessons.

MOVED by Colleen Woodger, **SECONDED** by Holly Tuokko, that the one entrant in the video contest be awarded the prize of their choice.

CARRIED

Action: John Hicks will notify the winner and work with Alan Perry to acquire the prize. A press release will be issued and the video and a photograph of the winner will be placed on the website.

4. Presentation by Jocelyn Purcell, ICBC, re Intersection Safety Cameras

At last month's meeting, interest was expressed in exploring red light or intersection safety cameras. Chair Plant contacted Joycelyn Purcell, who is the ICBC provincial representative for this program, and she was able to attend the meeting today to give a presentation on these cameras.

Jocelyn began by explaining that there is a focus on intersections because of the large number of crashes that occur in intersections. Data from 2015 shows that there were 100,000 crashes in intersections, with 61,000 people being injured and 72 fatalities. 60% of all crashes in the province occur at intersections (excluding crashes in parking lots or involving parked cars).

The primary objective of the program is to stop people from running red lights. The camera locations are listed on the ICBC website and there is a sign in each approach to an intersection with a camera. The belief is that will have a deterrent effect. Ticket revenue goes to the provincial government and is then distributed to BC municipalities towards policing and community-based public safety programs.

The intersection safety camera program was first introduced in the late 1990's and there are now 140 digital cameras around the province. The locations chosen for the cameras go through a very detailed selection process. An evaluation was done in 2015 that showed that crashes have been reduced overall by 3%, with side impact and head on collisions being reduced by 5%.

There are six red light cameras on Vancouver Island, with one located in Victoria at Shelbourne and Hillside and one in Saanich at the Trans-Canada Highway and Tillicum. Red light cameras are only shooting in one direction and the photo is taken of the rear of the vehicle as it goes over the detection loops in the pavement. The camera records vehicle speed which is how it knows to take a picture. Each image is verified to confirm that there is an offence before tickets are issued and people will receive tickets within two - five days. These are vehicle offences, not driver offences, so they don't come with any points, just a fine.

There are two cameras within each of the intersection safety camera housings. One camera takes a picture of the scene which is needed as evidence in court for any dispute that might arise. The second camera allows zooming in to see the license plate number.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

The topic of intersection safety cameras will be added to next month's agenda so a discussion can be held on how members see this program being of value to help traffic safety in the CRD. The Commission's work would be to make a recommendation to advocate for this program.

Alan Perry asked Jocelyn if it was possible to get more recent crash data, i.e., 2016, for our July meeting.

5. Media Clips

Alan Perry showed a copy of the front page of today's Times Colonist with an article about a serious crash in the new Pandora bike lanes.

A video about a safety campaign in Paris called "Virtual Crash Billboard" was shown. There are more pedestrians hit or killed in the Paris area than in any other city in the world and to make the public aware of the danger, the Paris Road Safety Authority created the Virtual Crash Billboard campaign. It has been very successful and has sparked nationwide discussion.

Alan also noted that roadside screening devices for detecting people suspected of drug impairment are being tested across Canada and there were four that passed acceptably and two that did quite well. In time for the rollout next summer of legalized marijuana, there may be a testing device in place. S/Sgt. Ron Cronk said that the challenge is going to be the cost per test.

6. Priority Business

➤ Budget Update

John Hicks provided an update on the budget. There haven't been any major expenditures and there is still a substantial amount of money to be allocated. No submissions for funding have been received. We need to have a budget plan ready for August.

The GVCC will be submitting a request for funding for a bike light up campaign.

➤ Advertising/Allocation of Surplus Funds

The advertising information on social media and Chek won't be ready until next month. After discussion, it was decided to go ahead with a motion to authorize the funding to begin a video campaign on CTV.

Dr. Murray Fyfe expressed concern that we don't have a full strategy mapped out for advertising in terms of demographics, etc., and that should happen before decisions on expenditures are made.

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Colleen Woodger, that funding up to \$20,000 plus GST, be authorized to begin a video campaign on CTV as presented last month. **CARRIED**

OPPOSED: Dr. Murray Fyfe

➤ Malahat Interval Cameras

Last month we passed a motion asking the CRD Transportation Committee to recommend to the CRD Board that they write to the CVRD to see if they would consider sending a joint letter to the province requesting the use of interval cameras be explored on the Malahat. The Transportation Committee not met yet and John Hicks said that a clearer motion is needed.

MOVED by Chris Foord, **SECONDED** by Leo Belanger, that the Transportation Safety Commission recommends that the Transportation Committee recommends that the CRD Board send a letter to the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board requesting it to co-sponsor a joint submission to the province requesting that the use of interval cameras be explored as an additional tool in the Malahat speed enforcement initiative. **CARRIED**

➤ Scholarship Planning

The deadline for applications for the Cst. Sarah Beckett Memorial Scholarship is July 1. After review of the applications, a scholarship planning and adjudication committee composed of John Hicks, Colleen Woodger, Ron Cronk and Barb McLintock will recommend a winner to the August TSC meeting. A press release will be issued to announce the winner's name.

Chair Plant advised that he has received an email from the Victoria Shamrocks Operations Manager regarding money they have raised for a Cst. Beckett Scholarship and he will contact them to see what their plans are.

The CRD has been successful in getting the approval of the municipalities to go ahead with the scholarship. The Inspector of Municipalities who approves bylaws has said there needs to be some changes and they will not be done in time for this to be authorized. The CRD is recommending that it be done as a grant in aid and that it be brought forward to next week's CRD Board meeting. If the CRD is successful in doing a grant in aid for this year's scholarship, the understanding would be that if the Inspector supports the change in the bylaw, then we would pay them back. When the scholarship is given, we should find a way to connect with the Westshore RCMP and the Beckett family.

7. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

➤ **Letter to CRD Board recommending mandatory use of bike helmets on trails**

Suggested changes from Commission members have been incorporated into the letter. Sgt. Al Gurzinski, Saanich Police, had expressed the opinion that this is already doable without any more changes at the CRD level. John Hicks will follow up on this.

Action: John Hicks to check this through Regional Parks. Defer to July meeting.

➤ **Exploring other funding opportunities with UVic Centre for Youth and Society**

This item came up as a result of a presentation to the February meeting by Tricia Roche from the UVic Centre for Youth and Society. It is suggested we send a letter to them advising that there is some funding available if they wish to apply.

Action: Dr. Richard Stanwick will send a letter to Tricia Roche, UVic Centre for Youth and Society, regarding funding opportunities. Defer to July meeting.

➤ **Letter regarding funding for transportation of special needs children**

Dr. Stanwick has been in communication with the Minister of Transport's office and a committee is now being put together to see how we can work with this issue. The Canadian Pediatric Society in Ottawa is willing to assist by offering staff time.

Action: Dr. Stanwick will provide a copy of the letter.

8. Member Updates

➤ **RoadSafetyBC**

No updates

➤ **ICBC**

Colleen Woodger provided the following update:

- A high risk driving campaign took place in May.
- July is Impaired Driving Month and counterattack road checks will take place. ICBC is partnering with Westshore RCMP to target people who drink while out on the water and then drive.
- A large pedestrian campaign will be held in September. Would it be possible to get the "Dead Right" commercial up and running for that time?

➤ **Youth and Children**

Judy Dryden provided the following update:

- BCAA and the United Way lower mainland have sent out car seats to some agencies, e.g., the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society. Judy will provide a more complete list for next month.

➤ **Seniors**

Dr. Holly Tuokko provided the following update:

- Following up on a comment in last month's minutes regarding education for seniors around the new bike lanes, Dr. Tuokko said that she doesn't know if there is anything specific that could be done for older adults, but she does hear complaints that they are not made aware of changes so they come as a surprise when they do encounter them.

➤ **Active Transportation**

John Hicks provided the following update:

- City of Victoria staff have thanked us again for the contribution to their Protected Bike Lane Road User Education and Awareness Project.
- John recently attended a BC Transit workshop. One part of that was based on driver protection and the number of cameras on the buses will be increased and driver protection barriers are going to be put in.
- Dr. Murray Fyfe commented that it is National Safe Kids Week and the topic this year is around active transportation and safety. Support was received from all three levels of government in signing a pledge to promote safety and active transportation.

➤ **IRSU**

S/Sgt. Ron Cronk provided the following update:

- Thanks to the TSC for contributing funds to the motorcycle skills day on May 14 that was held in partnership with VISC and ICBC in providing some motorcycle education awareness. There was a good turnout and opportunity for registrants to learn safety tips from the VISC instructors and police. ICBC surveyed some of the riders and received interesting information from that. Next year it is planned to do something bigger and better.

➤ **CVSE**

No update

➤ **Vancouver Island Safety Council**

Bill Laughlin provided the following update:

- A detailed report on the motorcycle skills day will be provided for next month's meeting.
- Congratulations to Colleen Woodger who took the VISC course and passed her motorcycle road test.

Chris Foord mentioned a short study by Todd Litman that was circulated to TSC members on the fact that reducing the number of aggregate kilometers driven is an effective way to reduce traffic crashes, and is an often-overlooked way of promoting traffic safety. Todd also had an excellent op-ed piece in the Times Colonist a couple of weeks ago on the need for and benefits of a more balanced transportation system in town.

9. **Other Business**

BC Transit Safety Concerns

Bill Laughlin commented he heard the BC Transit union president on CFAX talking about safety issues that have been caused for bus drivers because of the driving lanes being narrowed for the new bike lanes, and thought it might be worthwhile to have him attend a TSC meeting.

As a representative from the City of Victoria's Transportation Department will be attending next month's meeting to talk about the bike lanes, it was decided to ask them to address Transit's concern and comment on how the lane widths compare to other cities. John Hicks will contact them to make this request.

Reaching out to New Government

Discussion was held about possibly putting some issues forward and doing some advocacy work in the event there is a new government. It was decided to come up with a couple of issues we would like to recommend to the Board and discuss this further at next month's meeting.

10. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at noon in The Lakes banquet room.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.