

City of Chilliwack
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019, 3:30 pm
Dogwood Room – City Hall

Council Members: Councillor Jeff Shields, Chair
Councillor Jason Lum, Vice Chair

TAC Members: Mike Weightman, ICBC
Bryden Nelmes, Community Member
Corporal Mike Pfeifer, RCMP, Traffic Section
Stephen Head, Community Member
Chelsea Cromarty, Community Member
Wayne Williams, Manager of Facilities, SD#33 Transportation
David Swankey, SD33 Board Member
David Hill, Road Safety Engineer, ICBC
Phu Bui, Operations Manager, Chilliwack, Ministry of Transportation
Jim Ryan, Community Member

City Staff Members: Kara Jefford, Manager of Transportation and Drainage
Samantha Piper, Public Safety Specialist
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce
Lisa Trotter, BC Transit

Guest: Jocelyn Purcell, Manager, Road Safety Programs,
Intersection Safety Camera Program, ICBC

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Jeff Shields was Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda for Thursday,
Seconded (October 3, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held
Seconded (Thursday, June 20, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION

Intersection Safety Camera Program

Jocelyn Purcell, Manager, Road Safety Programs, ICBC provided a presentation regarding the Intersection Safety Camera Program. ICBC, together with the provincial government and the RCMP, operate the program. The goal of the program is to reduce crashes, injuries and deaths.

The following data was provided regarding intersection safety in BC:

- approximately 60% of all crashes occur at BC intersections (274 crashes/day)
- on average, more than 63,000 are injured in intersection crashes each year
- 69 people will lose their lives each year

The Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) locations are listed on ICBC's website indicating 140 high risk intersections across the province. Chilliwack red light cameras are located at Vedder Road at Luckakuck Way and at Vedder Road at Promontory Road.

Jocelyn provided information regarding the ticketing process, camera technology and the Speed Activation project. The Speed Activation project will include 35 upgraded intersection cameras to detect speed as well as red light running. The roll-out of the project is to be completed by March 31, 2020.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

The Manager of Transportation and Drainage provided information regarding the following enquiries emailed from Committee Members ahead of today's meeting:

Bicycle Map Update

A query was raised regarding the status of the bicycle map and whether there is a map for bicycle trails. The City of Chilliwack and Chilliwack Tourism are currently working together on the bicycle map and engaging with Cycle Chilliwack for input.

Electric Scooters

A question was raised with respect to the regulations for electric single person vehicles such as scooters. Are they allowed in bike lanes, on roads and/or sidewalks? Staff referred to the recently amended section in the Highway and Traffic Bylaw which indicates where scooters, skateboards and motorized scooters are permitted. These devices are prohibited from using the road under the BC Motor Vehicle Act. It was suggested to have staff review other municipalities' bylaws regarding the regulation of motorized scooters and to bring information forward as part of the City of Chilliwack's Pedestrian Plan for consideration.

Transit Buses

Discussion ensued regarding the utilization of small transit buses versus regular sized buses. Staff provided comment that transit buses are owned by BC Transit; Regular sized buses enable full utilization of the fleet, as they are used on multiple routes and in multiple jurisdictions and are interchangeable. Automatic passenger counters have recently been implemented on a proportion of buses which will enable ridership data to be collected and routes streamlined according to the information gathered.

A suggestion was made to have more information available to the public such as a Transit Facts and Questions (FAQ) section on the City of Chilliwack website.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)

Variable Speed Limit System Update

A query was raised regarding the status of the Variable Speed Limit System. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Chilliwack Operations Manager, Phu Bui, confirmed the infrastructure is on schedule and is now in place and is collecting data. The implementation on highway 1 is scheduled to be complete just prior to summer 2020. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOT) is planning an information session and will reach out to stakeholders in late October with more details.

Phu Bui left the meeting at 4:41 pm.

Road Debris

A concern was raised with respect to road debris not being cleaned up after harvest season and could pose a hazard to all road users including cyclists. Another concern is regarding homeowners blowing grass clippings and garden debris onto the roads, resulting in similar hazards to some road users. Discussion ensued regarding responsibility, cost and enforcement.

Roadworks

The Lickman Overpass/Interchange Project is substantially complete. The traffic signal on Lickman Road at the eastbound off-ramp has been removed and all traffic is routed to the roundabout.

A query was raised regarding the Prest Road overpass and whether consideration will be taken to implement left-hand turning lights eastbound. Staff noted the future Prest Interchange upgrade scope and costs have not yet been determined as discussions with MOT are required.

A query was raised with respect to the timeline Spadina Avenue upgrades. Staff noted the Spadina Avenue project is currently scheduled for 2021. Discussion ensued regarding consideration for a roundabout at Spadina Avenue and Corbould Avenue; staff noted this has not been identified in the Spadina upgrades; and therefore, could be considered as a future project.

A query was raised with respect to the South Sumas Road utility trench; staff noted South Sumas Road was repaired yesterday.

An update was requested regarding the Evans Road paving; staff noted the paving is complete.

Pedestrian Plan Update

Staff provided an update regarding the Pedestrian Plan. The project is moving forward and a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled early next year.

Cycling Plan

Staff responded to a request for an update regarding the Cycling Plan, specifically, the Broadway corridor. Richard Drdul, Community Transportation Planner, attended the October 1, 2019 Council Meeting to provide input on the revised design of the Airport-bike lane design. The revised design will be brought back to the October 15, 2019 Council Meeting.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

A query was raised regarding whether the recommendation from the Transportation Advisory Committee with respect to EV charging stations was brought forward to Council. Staff confirmed the recommendation was approved by Council on August 6, 2019. The Planning Department is currently working on updates to the Zoning Bylaw.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)

Transit

Staff provided information regarding a request for an update on the recommendation the Transportation Advisory Committee made at the June 20, 2019 TAC meeting with respect to the Youth Free Transit Pilot. Staff confirmed the recommendation was approved by Council on August 6, 2019. Staff will bring it back for Council’s consideration during the budget process in November 2019.

Parking in cul-de-sacs

An enquiry was raised regarding parking no longer being permitted in cul-de-sacs; staff reported the motion is currently at ‘Third Reading’ and is being held for further review.

Mike Weightman left the meeting at 5:00 pm.

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. INFORMATION

8. ROUND TABLE

Bryden shared information regarding an article with respect to non-standard crosswalks. A quote from Transportation Association of Canada (TAC), reports the TAC will be conducting a study from a safety perspective and a report is scheduled to be complete in 2021. Bryden noted it would be of interest for this Committee to follow up on the report.

Bryden provided comment regarding the timeline for the pedestrian/cycling bridge across Hope Slough at Williams Street which budgeted in the City’s Financial Plan for 2023.

Samantha Piper, Public Safety Specialist, provided information regarding the City of Chilliwack and Chilliwack Fire Department’s annual Chilliwack Safety Fair on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Home Depot from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Traffic Police (RCMP), Rail Police (CN), Fire Department, Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement, Speed Watch, ICBC, Fraser Valley Brain Injury, Workplace Health & Safety, City Operations Crew (equipment), Transit; U-Haul, City Planning Department and City Bylaw Department will all be in attendance. Car seat checks will also be available.

Corporal Mike Pfeifer reported on the following:

It was a busy two weeks at the beginning of September with the ‘Back to School’ Program in which RCMP partnered with Speed Watch, ICBC and Safer City for the annual campaign. Drivers were issued warning tickets and there were approximately 40 speed, cell phone use and seatbelt violations in school zones during the two weeks following the start of school.

RCMP Traffic Section Members worked with CN during Rail Safety Week September 23 – 29, 2019.

The RCMP Traffic Section worked together with the Safer City Team to prepare a short video series for public education for the 2019 back to school season. There is zero tolerance for red light runners and the RCMP are issuing traffic violation tickets to registered owners running school bus red lights. The RCMP will continue to work with the School District regarding this issue.

8. ROUND TABLE (continued)

Wayne Williams, Manager of Facilities, SD#33 Transportation, thanked the City of Chilliwack, ICBC and the RCMP for all the hard work regarding red light runners. The School District recently met with a local Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) regarding increasing fines for red light runners. The School District has received positive feedback regarding the School Bus Safety videos, which are available through the SD#33 website and social media.

Wayne provided data regarding last year’s stats during a 10-month calendar year which included:

- bus drivers drove 1,707,700 km/year with 51 buses and 43 routes
- over 1600 stops/day
- over 2900 fields trips during the school year
- bus fleet increased this year to add four more routes

David Swankey, SD33 Board Member, acknowledged the School Bus Video campaign and is appreciative of the work that went into the production. David requested a BC Transit update as to the roll-out of the new initiatives. Staff will request an update from BC Transit for an upcoming meeting. Staff noted a fare review is currently underway with BC Transit.

Chair Shields noted the “Youth Free Transit” pilot project that has been implemented in Victoria as of September 2019 and that BC Transit has been asked to come back with information regarding the pilot project.

David enquired whether consideration would be given for free transit for youth during the first day or week of school as a welcome back to school campaign to tie in with the Youth Free Transit initiative. David enquired as to whether any transportation-related resolutions were proposed at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention September 23 – 27, 2019. Vice-Chair Lum attended UBCM and provided an update to the Committee.

Vice-Chair Lum demonstrated the Google transit app ‘Moovit’ is a user-friendly trip planning software.

Wayne Williams commented on ‘Ride 360’, a free app that the School District uses to notify parents and guardians of any delays or disruptions to their child’s bussing schedule, while allowing Transportation to send timely notifications and alerts.

David Hill, ICBC, has been working with Samantha Piper, Safer Cities to identify road safety-related projects that ICBC can contribute towards and 12 projects have been approved for funding totalling \$150,000.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held in the New Year.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Councillor Jeff Shields, Chair