

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

City Hall Council Chambers

4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni, BC

Present: Director of Infrastructure Services, Jim MacDonald
Councillor, Charles Mealey
Trustee, SD70, Chris Washington
Fire Chief, Mike Owens
RCMP, Sgt. Jordan Hamlyn
Director of Corporate Services, Sara Darling

Absent: Diversified Transportation, Kathy Deschamps
ICBC, Rowena Narayan
ICBC, Peggy Gibbs
Ministry of Transportation, Jessica Learn

Staff: Manager of Operations, Clinton Wright
Manager of Community Policing, Dave Cusson

Gallery: 14

A. CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

MOVED, THAT the agenda be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held at 10:00 am on April 17, 2024, be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Upper Argyle Street Safety Concerns

J. MacDonald, Director of Infrastructure Services reported that design standards do not support the addition of a crosswalk on upper Argyle Street as there is no corresponding sidewalk on the opposite side. The City has since installed additional signage and the Tsumas Elementary school is providing traffic education with parents.

2. Lathom Road Traffic Safety Concerns

J. Macdonald, Director of Infrastructure Services reported that the City will be installing traffic count devices and speed cameras to collect data for further consideration. This area will also be considered in the Transportation Master Plan.

E. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The Director of Infrastructure Services summarized correspondence to the Committee as follows:

- a. Pacific Rim School District | Appointment of Pacific Rim School District's Advisory Traffic Committee Representative

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Email communication received from W. Walker regarding traffic safety concerns on Argyle Street, from Harbour Quay to 3rd Avenue.**

The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that many of the concerns refer to noise and traffic which should be referred to RCMP Traffic Control for review. The City is currently working on the design for the redevelopment of Argyle Street - 1st to 3rd Avenue with pedestrian safety upgrades.

2. **Email communication received from M. Deneault and G. Porter regarding traffic safety concerns on Compton Rd., between Margaret St. and Grandview Rd.**

The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the City is aware of this issue and has received several complaints. Specifications and Standards need to be reviewed before recommendations can be put forward. The City will begin installing traffic count devices and speed cameras to collect data and this area will be considered in the Transportation Master Plan.

G. ROUNDTABLE

Fire Chief, Mike Owens

- a. Inquired whether the City has road designations eg. arterial etc. The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the City does not have designated zones applied to specifications or a map of road designations. This will be addressed in the Transportation Master Plan.

Trustee, SD70, Christine Washington

- a. Inquired whether the City will create an alternate route for traffic during the construction of the roundabout on River Road. She added that people will avoid River Road and there will be more traffic on Compton Road. The Director of Infrastructure Services commented that because River Road is a provincial highway the Ministry must provide an alternate route. This will be set out in their Traffic Management Plan for the construction of the roundabout. The Director may bring this up with the Ministry.
- b. Inquired whether the City has given consideration to implementing what many communities have adopted - a 40km/h speed limit. The Director explained this will be addressed in the Transportation Master Plan. If there is a deviation from traffic standards Council would have to approve based on data-driven decisions.

Councillor, Charles Mealey

- a. Councillor Mealey echoed Trustee Washington's comments. He added that people will avoid the roundabout until they become comfortable with it. He suggested the City monitor Compton Road traffic volume during this time.

H. QUESTION PERIOD

Public Member of the Gallery

Commented about the load limit on Kitsuksis Bridge and the fact that no one abides by it. It is used heavily by commercial vehicles. His concern is about the lifespan of the bridge. J. MacDonald, Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the City is currently refining its Bridge Maintenance Program. To divert commercial traffic away from this bridge the City would first have to identify truck routes which will be part of the Transportation Master Plan.

Trustee, SD70, Christine Washington

Inquired about the date that the Transportation Master Plan will be completed. J. Macdonald, Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the Master Plan is due to be completed in late 2025 but will confirm.

Public Member of the Gallery, M. Deneault

Proposed speed humps on Compton Road. The roundabout on River Road will increase traffic during construction and ongoing. He inquired when the City is planning on installing speed cameras to collect data. J. Macdonald, Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the City needs data to support our case to request funding for suggested changes. As well, there needs to be discussion around the best locations to install these data devices.

Councillor, Charles Mealey

Inquired whether the Tsuma-as Elementary school has educated parents on parking. Trustee, SD70, Christine Washington explained that letters to parents have been sent out several times. The School District has also expanded the parking area behind the school but it is underutilized. If the City has an opportunity for funding the School District will also provide support.

Director of Infrastructure Services, Jim MacDonald

Expressed his appreciation for the comments and feedback. He explained that the City could approach ICBC and the Province for safety-related upgrades including solar powered pedestrian activated signals. The City could access the Operational Budget for any possible short-term upgrades as well.

Public Member of the Gallery, G. Porter

Resident of Compton Road provided input about his concerns with speeding and parents parking in residents' driveways. He suggested that speed humps are allowed on arterial routes and they are less impactful than speed bumps. J. MacDonald, Director of Infrastructure suggested the City do a series of public media releases and social media reminders.

Trustee, SD70, Christine Washington

- a. Inquired if the Traffic Advisory Committee had the authority to bring a prioritized list of traffic issues forward to Council? J. Macdonald, Director of Infrastructure Services answered yes to this question. He also stated that there will be more public engagement during the Transportation Master Plan project.
- b. Inquired whether the City could do something in the interim prior to the Transportation Master Plan being completed. J. MacDonald, Director of Infrastructure Services stated that speed humps may be considered in the short-term from the Operational Budget

Manager of Operations, Clinton Wright

Provided input on speed humps. The cost of each permanent speed hump is approx. \$15,000 and they are installed in a series. Data must be gathered to support prioritizing installing speed humps at different locations in the city.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT


J. MacDonald, Chair

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATES:

April 16, 2025
July 16, 2025
October 15, 2025

DISTRIBUTION

Councillor Charles Mealey
Mike Fox – CAO
Sara Darling – Director of Corporate Services
Kim Motiuk – Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Clinton Wright – Manager of Operations
Crystal Hiltunen – Roads and Drainage Superintendent
Scott Smith, Director of Development Services/Deputy CAO
Mary Clare Massicotte - Manager of Community Safety
Dave Cusson – Manager of Community Policing
Willa Thorpe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage
Sgt. Ryan Archer – RCMP, email agenda to Ryan.Archer@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Mike Owens, Fire Chief - PAFD
Larry Ransom, Trustee, SD 70, email agenda to lransom@sd70.bc.ca
Chris Washington – Trustee, SD 70, email agenda to cwashington@sd70.bc.ca
Rowena Narayan, Road Safety Coordinator, ICBC, email agenda to Rowena.Narayan@icbc.com
Peggy Gibbs, ICBC, email agenda to margaret.gibbs@icbc.com
Jessica Learn, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, email agenda to jessica.learn@gov.bc.ca
Kathy Deschamps, Diversified Transportation Ltd., email agenda to kathyd@patransit.pwt.ca
David Wiwchar, The Peak, email agenda to david.wiwchar@jpbq.ca