

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 @ 10:00 AM
Via Zoom Webinar Format

PRESENT: Chair, Rob Dickinson, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Councillor Ron Paulsen
SD#70 Trustee, Larry Ransom
RCMP, Manager of Community Policing, Dave Cusson
RCMP, Sgt. Peter Dionne
ICBC, Peggy Gibbs
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, Jessica Learn

REGRETS: Deputy Fire Chief, Wes Patterson
ICBC, Caroline Robinson
Diversified Transportation, Kathy Deschamps

DELEGATIONS

Delegation by Chris Alemany to discuss intersection of 6th Avenue and Morton Street –
New Business #2

**Action
By**

Delegation by Aaron Brevick to discuss crosswalk safety - New Business #3.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Larry Ransom brought forward an email from Laurie Morphet at Alberni Elementary School on January 7, 2019 regarding traffic flow concerns at the school.

Public Works will follow up with the school to confirm the location of the requested accessible parking stall.

RD

2. Road improvements at the lower Johnston corridor and River Road

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Highway 4 Port Alberni Corridor Study is confidential and won't be shared at this time. MOTI is waiting for budget approval and will follow up with an announcement at a later date. This is a high priority for the Ministry and will include detailed design and community engagement including all stakeholders. Jessica from MOTI also announced that MOTI will be adding flashers at the Ian Avenue and Johnston Road intersection. Peggy suggested that MOTI submit for funding with ICBC.

JL/RD

3. Email on January 23, 2020 from Alicia Ashley regarding safety concerns with neighbourhood children trying to get to school at E.J. Dunn. There are no crosswalks near the school on Argyle Street allowing children to get across from Argyle Way.

Rob reported that the Active Transportation Study will be updated by the City. They will look at prioritizing missing links, missing crosswalks/sidewalks and higher density areas in school zones. Emphasis will be placed on prioritizing additional sidewalks or multi use pathways in the future. Peggy suggested that the consultant, Urban Systems, contact ICBC for assistance with funding the Active Transportation update. This project will be phased over 5 years.

RD

NEW BUSINESS

1. **February 11, 2021 email request from Larry Ransom to discuss the pedestrian fatality on February 10, 2021 on Johnston Road at Tebo Avenue as well as other problem crosswalks in Port Alberni.** PD

Rob reported that the City will be doing a Network Screening Study, partnering with ICBC. This study will include ICBC accident data, RCMP, City, and Public input and historical traffic counts. The study will research the top 20 problem intersections and identify the top 15 for action. It will address lighting concerns, wide streets, signal activation, sightline issues etc. Discussion on the Johnston/Tebo intersection included ideas around giving pedestrians more time to cross such as left turn signal activation, changing the timing of lights, overhead flashers or a walk signal. It was questioned whether this accident was an anomaly or an ongoing safety concern. The City, ICBC and MOTI should have further discussion. It was also noted that linking the Scott Kenny Trail to residential areas in this vicinity make this a key intersection for pedestrians.

2. **March 11, 2021 email request from Chris Alemany to install stop signs in the north/south director of 6th Avenue at Morton Street, creating a 4-way stop intersection.** BM

Mr. Alemany was present to speak. The main issue seems to be the crest of the hill on 6th Avenue blocks the vision of oncoming traffic. In effect, it is a blind hill. He has witnessed a higher volume of traffic and high speeds. There is increased pedestrian traffic in this neighbourhood and therefore more potential for conflict. There are also a number of driveways off of 6th Avenue. Peggy reported that there were no collisions according to ICBC data from 2015-2019 at this intersection. She agreed the crest of the hill is a concern but noted that stop signs are not usually used for traffic calming. Peggy will meet with Rob to discuss further.

Further discussion included comments from Dave Cusson that Speedwatch reported vehicles travelling in excess of 70km/h on 6th Avenue. Sgt. Dionne suggested signage in advance of the hill could be valuable or speed bumps or bulbing. Councillor Paulsen noted that the 46 unit low cost housing complex on Maitland Street will be opening January 2022 and may increase density with roughly 200 new residents in the area. KW

3. **Request from Aaron Brevick to discuss crosswalk safety in Port Alberni.**

Mr. Brevick suggested that Council recommend to the Planning Department, to require a deposit for new sidewalks from the developer when approving large developments in the future. Another suggestion for funding sidewalks/crosswalks is for the public to fund them, have a sponsor a sidewalk program or memorial sidewalk program. The City would need to identify where sidewalks and crosswalks are missing.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dave Cusson reported that he was involved in creating a video on intersection safety. It was released to the public through different mediums. Intersection safety has 3 components: education, enforcement and engineering.

Councillor Paulsen thanked Jessica and the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure for the traffic report they sent to City Council last year regarding Beaver Creek Road, River Road and Johnston Road. This project should take 2-7 years developing safe and esthetic improvements in this area.

Larry Ransom thanked Peggy and ICBC for sending ICBC traffic data links to all committee members.

Dave Cusson commented favourably on the school signs that were moved and extended to improve driver's sightlines at local schools, especially at John Howitt.

The question was asked whether there is any known study regarding density of crosswalks in a community. Peggy commented that she isn't aware of any study. However, there is thought to not add a new crosswalk if there is already one nearby. They should not be too closely-spaced. A signalized crosswalk is always safer.

Rob Dickinson commented that School Travel Plans work amazing but they are time intensive. Missing links and safety concerns are brought forward by students and parents to identify problem areas around school zones for further review.

Councillor Paulsen commented on the cyclist fatality at 10th Avenue and Dunbar Street. There was another collision at this intersection recently. This is on Council's agenda and may be brought forward to the Committee at the next meeting. Rob reported that Urban Systems has been asked to look at this intersection already regarding signage and lighting and may be reporting back in 4-6 weeks.

Dave Cusson reported that Speedwatch was set up 2 weeks ago to monitor 10th Avenue at "the dip". Excessive speed was witnessed quite a few times with the highest being 91km/h. Reaction time at this speed is reduced drastically. This may be a good spot for a portable activated speed sign.

Peggy added that there are solar-powered speed reader boards and ICBC can assist with cost. These attach to the nearest utility pole. Peggy can be contacted for cost sharing assistance.

Jessica reported that Highway 4 bridge work in May will impact drivers. There will also be work done at the base of the Hump this summer which may also impact drivers. Next week will start closures at Kennedy Hill for the next 5 Wednesdays.

Jessica reported that she would like to do some planning around Dangerous Goods Spills with the Ministry of Environment, first responders and municipalities.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING DATES FOR 2021:

October 20, 2021

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION

Council

Tim Pley – CAO

Twyla Slonski – Director of Corporate Services

Rob Dickinson – Director of Engineering & Public Works

Streets Superintendent

Scott Smith – Director of Development Services/Deputy CAO

Manager of Community Safety

Willa Thorpe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage

Sgt. Peter Dionne – RCMP, email agenda to Peter.DIONNE@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Wes Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief - Fire Department

Larry Ransom - Trustee, SD 70, email agenda to mlransom@shaw.ca

Caroline Robinson - Road Safety Coordinator, ICBC, email agenda to caroline.robinson@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 dwiwchar@islandradio.bc.ca

Bill Brown – cyclist, email agenda to billtbrown@shaw.ca