



City of Port Alberni

ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the Meeting held Wed., July 18th, 2012 at 10:00 am

- PRESENT:** Guy Cicon - Chair, Randy Fraser (City of PA), Councillor Rob Cole, Sgt. Dave Paddock (RCMP), Pat Dahlquist (SD#70), Phil Atkinson (Diversified Transportation), Caroline Robinson (ICBC)
- REGRETS:** Cameron McKinnon (Diversified Transportation), Alison Wong (ICBC), Chris Jancowski (Firehall)

DELEGATIONS

Brian Daniels, member of the public

Action
By

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **A petition was brought forward at a “Coffee with the Mayor” event on February 10, 2012 regarding speeding and the lack of a speed limit sign on Grandview Road.** GC/RF
Guy and Randy investigated the signage on this road. The City is still exploring putting in a gravel sidewalk on the west side of the ditch to address the issue of pedestrian safety. Sgt. Dave Paddock checked with Tom Gill, RCMP Traffic Unit and Speedwatch, who reported back to him, that they both discovered a low volume of local traffic and little to no speeding on Grandview Road. At issue is the narrowness of the road and pedestrians just don't feel safe.
2. **A letter from Allana Tweedie was brought forward at the regular Council meeting on May 14, 2012 requesting the installation of pedestrian activated crossing beacons at all crosswalks on major roads in Port Alberni.** GC/RF/
DP/CR
Guy reported that the City currently has two pedestrian activated lights and will soon have another one installed at Roger Street and Vimy Street across from the new highschool. Each pedestrian activated light is approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000.00 per installation. Phil Atkinson reported that unfortunately the reality is that not everyone presses the button prior to crossing. Rob Cole added that we can't install them everywhere as it may create other problems so we should focus on specific problem areas.

Caroline Robinson from ICBC reported that it comes down to behaviour of cyclists/pedestrians and motorists. Guy read an article from the Globe and Mail regarding the fact that crosswalks do not guarantee safety of pedestrians. Most accidents involving pedestrians are of seniors and young people after dark. Vancouver will be doing research on analyzing behavioural trends of cyclists/pedestrians and motorists and we will be able to learn from their published results. Caroline suggests incorporating education on road safety along with any changes to traffic lights. People

need constant reminders. It will have benefit to the majority of people. She will research pedestrian hits and causes for Port Alberni and report back her results. Fact sheets on road safety issues are available from ICBC and Caroline will send these to us for use on our website, etc. Caroline will talk to Jen Allen, RCMP media contact and help arrange some vignettes on Shaw Cable involving ICBC, RCMP, and Randy Fraser. Hopefully this can happen prior to the new school season. It is currently being done in Nanaimo. A response letter will be sent to Allana Tweedie.

3. **A phone message request came in, from a member of the public, to change the yield sign to a stop sign at North Crescent and 6th Avenue.** GC/RF
After much discussion, it was decided by the committee to install a stop sign at this intersection. It won't hinder traffic flow and may ensure motorists come to a complete stop. The stop sign will also be installed with a painted white strip on the street. This is an awkward intersection so a stop sign will be clear and simple for liability issues.
4. **An email to Mayor Douglas was received from Ron Otte at Jax Store requesting the installation of a crosswalk where the sidewalk ends at Compton Road across from the store as well as a park speed zone to slow traffic in this area.** GC/RF
The committee agreed that a crosswalk makes sense at the natural pathway that is already being used by pedestrians, across to the store on the other side of Compton Road. Guy and Randy will investigate whether the ball park warrants a park speed zone. There was also discussion around whether a fence will in front of the ball park entrance would help funnel people to use the new crosswalk and help deter children from going out onto the road.
5. **Aaron Vissia brought forward a concern to Ken Watson, City Manager, regarding parking restrictions on the block of lower Johnston Road between Gertrude Street and Elizabeth Street.** GC/RF
Guy and Randy will speak with other business owners on this block to see if there is unanimous agreement to change the parking restriction of 1 hour to 2 hours.

DISCUSSION

Rob Cole discussed concerns from his neighbours in the Dogwood Street/Hollywood Street area regarding potential traffic flow problems that may occur once the new highschool is open. The City will wait and see if these problems occur.

Brian Daniels commented that City garbage trucks should not be picking up garbage on Johnston Road and Redford Street blocking one lane of traffic where parking is prohibited. He felt that the traffic volume is too high and its just an accident waiting to happen. Randy and Guy spoke about the fact that other communities have garbage pickup in the front as well and the garbage trucks are continuously moving with flashers on. There are very few houses in these two areas with residential garbage pickup. Brian also expressed concern over the City water truck watering flowers at Johnston Road and Margaret Street restricting site lines and crosswalks. Randy will speak with Jacob Colyn from the Parks Department.

Pat Dahlquist reported on a concern from Art Wynans of Wynans Furniture and Upholstery regarding the Johnston Road and Helen Street intersection. He has witnessed several near misses. The traffic lights at this intersection are pedestrian activated. Pat also commented on concerns regarding Clutesi Haven Marina at Beaver Creek Road and Highway 4. Guy reported that he has spoken to the Ministry of Transportation recently about both of these intersections. Traffic counts are done every three years and there has been no change regarding traffic volume. There are no changes that will be made in the near future to these intersections, however there will continue to be monitoring of these issues.

Caroline Robinson reported on the top crash locations in Port Alberni. She cautioned us that these are reported statistics/data only and don't include other accidents that weren't reported to ICBC. Most crashes are caused by rear-ending and left turn issues. The committee has asked her to report back with more details (causal factors) going back 5 years for the Gertrude Street and Roger Street and Stamp Avenue intersection and the Helen Street and Johnston Road intersection. Caroline reminded us that there are crash maps on the ICBC website that are available to everyone and that ICBC has many resources to share with communities such as educational materials, partnerships, statistics etc.

Phil Atkinson reported that there is to be a re-routing of buses to optimize the bus system with a centralized exchange/transfer station at 12th Avenue and Redford Street. The new system will be implemented on the last Sunday of August before school is back in session. The new schedules are being printed at the Queen's Printer and the Rider's Guide will arrive just in time for the implementation.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

October 17, 2012

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION Council

Ken Watson - City Manager

Davina Sparrow - City Clerk

Guy Cicon - City Engineer

Randy Fraser - Streets Superintendent

Scott Smith - City Planner

Tim Hautzinger - Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Scott Kenny - Director of Parks and Recreation

Sgt. Dave Paddock - RCMP

Deputy Fire Chief Chris Jancowski - Fire Department

Pat Dahlquist - Trustee, SD 70, email agenda to wdahlqui@shaw.ca

Caroline Robinson - Road Safety Coordinator, ICBC, email agenda to caroline.robinson@icbc.com

Alison Wong - ICBC, email agenda alison.wong@icbc.com

& carsoneengg@novuscom.net

Heather Thomson - AV Times, email agenda news@avtimes.net

Rob Diotte - AV 1240, email agenda to rdiotte@islandradio.bc.ca

Cameron McKinnon - Diversified Transportation Ltd., email agenda to dcm.49@hotmail.com

Phil Atkinson - Diversified Transportation Ltd., email agenda to phil@patransit.pwt.ca



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

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August 7, 2012

Allana Tweedie
4485 Roger Street
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 3Z5

Dear Ms. Tweedie,

Re: Letter requesting installation of pedestrian activated lights at crosswalks

Thank you for your faxed letter dated April 20, 2012 with regards to your concerns about pedestrian and cyclist safety in Port Alberni.

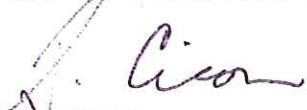
On Wednesday, July 18th the Advisory Traffic Committee met and reviewed your concerns. The City Engineering reported that Johnston Road, Redford Street and River Road are the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation. He also mentioned that there will soon be a new pedestrian activated light installed at Roger Street and Vimy Street.

Discussion took place with regards to the fact that the issue is one of pedestrian/cyclist and motorist behavior. The Committee agreed that installing pedestrian activated beacons everywhere will be costly and not necessarily effective so the focus should be on specific problem areas. ICBC will report back with results of pedestrian hits and causes at major intersections in Port Alberni. It was suggested that creating short vignettes on Shaw Cable involving ICBC, RCMP and our Streets Superintendent, prior to the start of the school year should be implemented. ICBC will provide road safety fact sheets and background for the media.

I appreciate your concern on this matter. Please call me if you have any further questions.

Yours truly,

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI


Guy Cicon,
City Engineer