



City of Port Alberni

ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the Meeting held Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 10:00 am

PRESENT: Wilf Taekema, Chair (Director of Engineering & Public Works), Councillor Ron Paulsen, Larry Ransom (SD#70), Laurie Payne (Diversified Transportation), Peggy Gibbs (ICBC), Caroline Robinson (ICBC)

REGRETS: Brian Mousley, Streets Superintendent, Councillor Ron Corbeil, Wes Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief (PAFD), Sgt. Peter Dionne (RCMP), Cameron McKinnon (Diversified Transportation), Sgt. Michelle Mercer (Central Vanc. Island Traffic Services)

DELEGATIONS

**Action
By**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion surrounding crosswalk at Johnston Road and Ian Avenue.** WT

The Committee discussed that the development at the Remax property will eliminate the Johnston Road entrance/exit. There may still be an "Exit Only" onto Princess Street. Peggy from ICBC commented that there can be a road safety audit by ICBC at any stage of a project. ICBC may also be able to help fund a consultant-led study.

MOTI has since indicated they are not interested in upgrading the crosswalk to a special or signalized crosswalk, but would install overhead crosswalk signs. This work would require concrete bases to be installed in the boulevards. WT
- 2. Several suggestions for improvements from the January 2019 Cycle Alberni group presentation.**

10th Ave & Dunbar recommendations– Councillor Paulson reported public opposition to closing off Dunbar Street. Councillor Paulson made note of a dark spot immediately preceding the intersection. The intersection itself is well-lit. The City will install an asphalt fillet in the gutter where the path begins toward the Curling Club

River Road & Beaver Creek Road recommendations – this is Ministry controlled. Wilf reported that this will be on the agenda at his meeting with the Ministry on July 10th, 2019.

Gertrude St & Roger Street recommendations – observed that there has been an increase in logging trucks lately on Victoria Quay

Stamp Avenue recommendations – Wilf reported that there is the option of removing the guardrails in the future if Thunder in the Valley doesn't return to Stamp Avenue. Cycle Alberni would like to see a phased project start as soon as possible for a protected bike lane along this corridor. It was discussed that the Active Transportation Plan should be updated.

Additional Concerns:

Potholes are very dangerous for cyclists – many of these have been fixed and some are Ministry controlled which will be on the agenda for the July 10th meeting.

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10th Avenue and Redford Street – ICBC supports the City eliminating the first two parking spaces in front of the Cygnet Apartments after the merge lane - it has become a pinch point because of left hand turn lane into Co-Op.

There was also discussion around installing surveillance traffic cameras at high-traffic intersections in Port Alberni. This is not an ICBC initiative so municipalities would have to take the lead on this. ICBC commented that Surrey, BC has an extensive traffic safety department and has installed numerous traffic cameras. Peggy from ICBC will forward Surrey contact information to Wilf. ICBC did warn that there is a data storage issue with these continual surveillance cameras.

Other Recommendations: big trucks to use inside lane where possible and decrease speed limits in city limits. ICBC commented that big trucks using the inside lane when making a right turn would create other safety issues and there would likely be public opposition to decreasing speed limits.

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

Larry reported that the school is still reviewing the impact and results of recent changes.

4. **Councillor Paulson commented that the light at LB Woodchoppers on 3rd Avenue is a very long light which isn't warranted. There is very little traffic on the cross street there.**

The Committee discussed that this traffic light keeps the buses on time. Traffic has increased in this area and there is a lot of pedestrian use. There are standard signal timings in place.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Email on March 16, 2019 from Clint Spence suggesting the City put out a full page ad in the newspaper reminding the public of speed limits in our city.**

Alicia, the City's Manager of Communications, will put something on the City's website as well as all social media outlets.

PG/WT

2. **Email on April 17, 2019 from Jamie La Porte regarding the installation of traffic cameras at busy intersection in the city.**

The Committee discussed this previously with the suggestions about improvements from the Cycle Alberni group. Peggy will email Wilf with the contact information for the road safety engineering for the City of Surrey.

PG

3. **Letter received May 3, 2019 from Frank Holm via Councillor Paulson regarding unsafe intersection at 3rd Avenue and Angus Street with a**

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suggestion to paint STOP on the centreline's pavement ahead of the crosswalk.

The issue is vehicles not stopping at the 4-way stop because they can't see the stop sign due to a larger vehicle in the curb lane blocking sightlines. The Committee discussed that there have been similar comments about the intersection at Argyle Street and 10th Avenue. Peggy reported that there were 9 ICBC claims at this intersection but none pertaining to this issue. It was pointed out that it is expensive to implement and maintain these painted crosswalks. ICBC would support it because it's a benefit however suggested that the City prioritize intersections where it has been shown to be more of a problem.

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4. Letter on May 16, 2019 from Mrs. Sheila Marshall, St. John Paul II Catholic School regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Maitland Street and 8th Avenue.

It was discussed that there is a proposal for an apartment building on Maitland Street between 8th Avenue and 9th Avenue for 47 units (mostly families). Peggy from ICBC commented that there is a missing sidewalk link along Maitland between 8th Avenue and 9th Avenue. Some cost sharing with ICBC would be considered due to proximity to a school and a crosswalk across 8th Avenue. A pedestrian and vehicle count should be done to see what is warranted.

PG/WT

5. Email on May 24, 2019 from Don Steinhauer suggesting the City remove the traffic light at 3rd Avenue and Napier Street as it no longer service its original purpose. He also suggested the City remove the traffic island on 10th Avenue immediately preceding the intersection at Redford Street as it services no purpose now that the Petro Can is no longer in operation.

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The traffic light at 3rd & Napier was discussed above. Comments were made about the fact that it keeps the buses on time and it is used extensively for pedestrians as it is the only safe place to cross between Redford Street and Argyle Street. The street is very wide and traffic has increased in the area in recent years. It was discussed that the purpose of the traffic island on 10th Avenue in front of Save-on Foods/old Petro Can was to stop drivers from being able to unsafely drive directly across 10th Avenue from parking lot to parking lot.

6. Email on June 12, 2019 from Mae Leblanc with a suggestion to advertise the dog park off Beaver Creek Road so it is tourist-friendly and tourists can make use of it.

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Any signage along Johnston Road advertising the dog park would be Ministry controlled. Wilf will bring this up at his meeting with MOTI in July.

LATE ITEMS

Email on June 13, 2019 from Joseph Leskosek regarding traffic concerns at Princess and Johnston Road. This was discussed in item one above. As well, Peggy from ICBC commented that MOTI prefers overhead pedestrian display with signage and downlighting at crosswalks lately. There can also be added pedestrian flashing lights on the sides. The cost of such a project would be between \$80,000 and \$90,000 where the municipality would pay half the cost. Peggy reported that the crash history would warrant road improvements at this intersection.

WT

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Committee discussed revisiting road improvements at the lower Johnston corridor at Elizabeth Street. It was brought up previously that pedestrian bump-outs would be a good idea for 4 blocks of Johnston Road from River Road to Elizabeth Street. Peggy from ICBC will do a cost benefit analysis.

Guy Cicon, Cycle Alberni, commented on the egress onto Princess Street from the Remax property. He pointed out that it is not a good idea, there are too many conflicts with the tightness of this intersection.

MOTI has since denied the development application to add this egress.

Larry Ransom, SD #70 Trustee, had a question regarding the request for an additional crosswalk at A.W. Neill. It was reported that we are waiting to hear back from the school if it is still required. Peggy from ICBC pointed out that there would be no connecting sidewalk to a new crosswalk.

Peggy, ICBC, reported that in order to do a cost benefit analysis of the road improvement to the shoulder of the road along Beaver Creek Road from Indian Avenue to Compton Road, she would need a sketch of the area.

SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2019: October 16, 2019

Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION

Council
Tim Pley –CAO
Davina Hartwell - City Clerk
Wilf Taekema – Director of Engineering and Public Works
Brian Mousley – Streets Superintendent
Katelyn McDougall –Manager of Planning
Tim Hautzinger – Acting Manager of Bylaw Services
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
David Wiwchar, The Peak, email agenda to dwiwchar@islandradio.bc.ca
Cameron McKinnon - Diversified Transportation Ltd., email agenda to dcml49@hotmail.com
Laurie Payne - Diversified Transportation Ltd., email agenda to lauriep@patransit.pwt.ca
Sgt. Michelle Mercer - Central Vanc. Island Traffic Services, email agenda to Michelle.Mercer@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Bill Brown – cyclist, email agenda to billtbrown@shaw.ca
Kevin Head – cyclist, email agenda to kevin.head@gmail.com