

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
HELD IN THE TRAINING ROOM, ANNEX, ON MONDAY, 2012-JUL-16,
COMMENCING AT 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Michele Patterson, Chair
Councillor Ted Greves
Councillor Bill McKay
David Grey
Jim Routledge

Absent: Councillor George Anderson
Councillor Bill Bestwick
David Murchie

Staff: Andrew Tucker
Susan Clift
Bob Prokopenko
Gordon Foy
Amir Freund
Tim Davidson
Tricia Wilkinson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS:

a) Introduction for Committee members

Round table introductions took place.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND LATE ITEMS:

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Greves

- New business from the last minutes – Susan was to look into usage of charging stations for electric vehicles for Vancouver Island Conference Centre and Beban Park and stats of using them
- How many people have electric vehicles and ask ICBC for electric vehicle numbers.
- Verbal update on cycling

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

M Patterson – Would like the 2012-MAY-23 Minutes to be sent around again and get adopted at the next meeting.

5. DELEGATIONS:

No delegations were present.

6. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

(a) Parking Update – Andrew Tucker & Tim Davidson

T Davidson provided a presentation regarding parking restrictions that are in place in Downtown Nanaimo, Vancouver Island University (VIU), and discussed parking issues in the hospital area.

The City has implemented a resident only parking area around VIU. The parking restrictions are active during peak parking demand periods, weekdays 9am-5pm. Restrictions have been in place for about two years and over that period, the City has issued about 45 violations. The City has received very few complaints. Queen Street used to get five to six calls a day and now there are zero calls. Flexibility has been allowed to facilitate delivery vehicles, cleaning vehicles working within the neighbourhood.

T Davidson – About 150 parking spaces are in the zone that is restricted (just a small zone has been implemented, not the entire 500 metres). No calls have been received asking to expand the area.

Councillor Greves – Where are the people that used to park there parking now?

T Davidson – At the top of Fifth Street, parking lots at the NIC, NAC, and NDSS and on Wakesiah around Hawthorne Subdivision. Eliminated a lot of signs (25 or 30 signs) which brought the cost down.

D Grey – who owns land at the top of Fifth Street?

T Davidson – Ministry of Transportation and Highways and the City of Nanaimo.

M Patterson – When is the last time someone from the City met with VIU to give them an update on how it's working?

T Davidson – No one has met.

A Tucker – VIU, by drawing people into the community, brings both benefits and challenges.

Councillor Greves – Have we solved the problem?

T Davidson – Complaints have diminished and there hasn't been significant displacement

G Foy – We have seen some displacement to a number of other parking lots, Serauxman, diversion to Fifth Street. Might want to think about doing ½ block or ½ street of restrictions in the future to reduce diversion. While we have satisfied issues at VIU we might consider alternative strategies when dealing with NRGH.

Councillor McKay – NRGH does not provide parking for their staff.

A Tucker – NRGH has recently increased capacity and put in 104 new stalls. They're working to address their parking demand. The response from the hospital is they're in the healthcare business, not the parking business.

T Davidson – The City has done some pre-work on discussing options. One company says that a multistation on street pay parking; residents exempt with two hour zones, or resident only. Probably only ½ the street; we need to consider 50% of the street.

There is no advantage to parking on the street if it is metered and if it's the same price or higher. It's going to take a lot of discussion / investigation that works for most people.

D Grey – it's densification as NRGH gets bigger. As densification happens, there is not going to be enough street parking. This problem will spread and become much worse. It could be more of a policy issue. Businesses and organizations have to attempt to solve the problem and then Council could come up with a policy.

T Davidson – There is a parking bylaw that speaks to that issue; there is a requirement to provide on-site parking.

A Tucker – VIU is a provincial body and they are not bound by City bylaws. The bylaw is based on what the standards in the 70s and 80s. We require more parking today. The ratios from other communities, our parking ratios are higher than the norm. Staff are going to review the parking bylaw in the workplan in 2013.

Councillor Greves – Idea is to get less parking and get people to take transit, etc.

G Foy – It's likely only going to get worse from here. We won't be able to catch up on the parking supply side. We have to get better at managing the supply we have.

S Clift – you want to reduce the amount of asphalt you have. If you see street parking as a public asset it needs to be managed carefully.

Councillor McKay – It would be nice to have ongoing dialogues. Hard to believe that VIHA doesn't have to provide parking to its employees.

A Tucker – We have to juggle parking demands. Trying to hold off on NRGH until 2013 when a new parking manager will be hired.

T Davidson – We still have time to come up with good solutions. Looking forward to getting in-house parking in place. Spoke about standardizing parking; metered areas are the same; main part of downtown is void of meters.

S Clift – There is usually a close relationship with off street and on street pricing. Always more expensive on the street. Want a fast turnover on the street. Would like to rethink pay parking on street. Schools of thought, making it free for all hours. Needs to be a mix of different parking strategies. Important to put proper pricing. Lessen demand on street and increase demand in parking garages.

Councillor McKay – What's the story with the two hour parking limit in the downtown zone?

T Davidson – one rule is you can't return to the same block within the two hours. A separate rule, I believe Schedule 'F' of the parking bylaw 5000, speaks to parking in downtown, around Commercial, Bastion, Church and Chapel Streets and once you park there, you cannot return for the rest of the day.

It was moved and seconded that Staff bring back recommendations to the Transportation Advisory Committee regarding parking as it relates to Bylaw 5000. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan (NTMP) – Terms of Reference for RFP presentation/workshop – Gordon Foy

G Foy provided a presentation regarding the draft Terms of Reference for the Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan.

All of the data collection is coming in. Work towards the end of July to get report back to Consultant. And the final review process will be in August/September.

Trying to get the RFP out at the beginning of August. Terms of Reference sets the tone of the RFP. Companies need about 2 – 3 weeks to respond to it. Review those proposals late August and bring someone on board early September.

There needs to be a balance. What types of questions we want answered, how much money we have and the time frame. The company needs to put together a proposal that best meets our needs as a community.

Discussions ensued regarding the draft Terms of Reference.

G Foy – Agreement with the principles in the draft Terms of Reference?

A Tucker – Need to complete the missing links in the network (believes it is a principle and would override everything).

M Patterson – Should there be something around culture?

D Grey – Agrees with a cohesiveness network (A Tucker's statement)

A Tucker – Should include the benefits of mixed land use within each neighbourhood

G Foy – Land use will be weaved throughout this report

Councillor McKay – Is there is a disconnect between ourselves and the RDN and our transit service.

G Foy – We are working with RDN / BC Transit to coordinate fall consultations.

7. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION:

No correspondence submitted.

8. ONGOING BUSINESS:

Councillor Greves

- new business from the last minutes – Susan was to look into usage of charging stations for electric vehicles for Vancouver Island Conference Centre and Beban Park and stats of using them
- how many people have electric vehicles and ask ICBC for electric vehicle numbers
- verbal update on cycling

S Clift – she spoke with Bruce Labelle before he went on holidays and he will be coming to the next meeting to speak on this issue

Councillor Greves – wanted a verbal update on cycling; he couldn't find any information on a cycling plan on the City's website. Where are we with the cycling?

G Foy – Parks, Recreation and Culture prepared a map on cycling in the City. There is an electronic version of the website under the Parks Department (<http://www.nanaimo.ca/assets/Departments/Parks~Rec~Culture/Publications~and~Forms/cyclingtransitmap.pdf>).

The budget for bike funding is very limited. Trying to get Fourth Street set up with bike lanes – project will be finished soon. In 2015 planning bike improvements from Dunsmuir Street to Machleary. The last remaing piece will be from Machleary, over the Cat Stream and getting up the hill on the other side.

We're asking the development community to do bike lanes. Also City project such as Rutherford to McGirr where we did wider shoulders that accommodates bikes.

We have about \$35,000 a year specifically identified for Bicycle Network Improvements.

Councillor Greves – that budget is nothing and if we are serious about convincing people to walk and bike, it can't be done on a \$35,000 budget.

Signage is very important.

G Foy – City-led construction projects try to put a greater emphasis on cyclists; working with the Ministry for cycling on Boundary and Northfield. We don't have a comprehensive list of projects.

M Patterson – Should there be something about finances in the Terms of Reference document?

G Foy – It's supposed to be behind the special projects in the Terms of Reference document; we will make sure that the financial implications are put back in the document.

S Clift – Please discuss the committee's roll on how we move forward with this plan

G Foy – This committee is our steering committee and we would hope that you would participate in consultation and communicating this message to the rest of the community

S Clift – what are you expecting to bring back to this group?

G Foy – What data summaries we will have through Aug and Sept. Sept, we'll bring the consultant to you and looking forward to the October public process. Sep / Oct will be public process.

9. NEXT MEETING:

Find a time in August after Councillor Anderson is back from holidays. Perhaps 2012-AUG-20? Everyone to look at their calendars to see what works.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:10 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR