



MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

Members:

Councillor Armstrong
Councillor Eastmure
Scott Brodie
Kim Coulthard
Doug Cowling
Collen Middleton* (joined at 4:03 p.m.)
Jennifer Millbank (vacated at 5:03 p.m.)
Ruth Taylor

Absent:

James Bowen
Destiny Herman
Kevin Lambert

Staff:

L. Bhopalsingh, General Manager, Community Services/Deputy
Chief Administrative Officer
T. Doyle, Fire Chief
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
Supt. E. Rochette, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
Insp. D. Tait, Operations Officer, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
D. LaBerge, Director, Public Safety
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
C. Wood, Manager, Social Planning
A. Chanakos, Zoom Moderator
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

* Denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by "Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272"

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Public Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Add New Agenda Item 8(d) Discussion re: Future Committee Direction

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Public Safety Committee held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2025-JUN-11, at 4:00 p.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, advised that the Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming report was presented at the 2025-NOV-24 Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) Meeting and at the 2025-DEC-01 Regular Council Meeting, it was referred to the Public Safety Committee (Committee) for input.

Councillor Armstrong provided an overview of some of the concerns raised by the Lost Lake neighbourhood including their request for bollards at Smokey Crescent intersection, a three-way stop sign at the Tanya Drive and Lost Lake Road intersection and prohibiting parking on the road shoulders.

Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, spoke regarding Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming. Highlights included:

- Staff have been aware of the poor walkability of this area due to the road being built to rural standards and on challenging topography
- Traffic calming measures have been implemented to mitigate speed; however, the neighbourhood has requested additional measures
- The addition of shoulders in various locations in the area would not be viable
- Signage has been installed to remind motorists of the Provincial Law for passing distances

- The majority of the neighbourhood is in support of moving forward with additional traffic calming
- Staff have proposed the implementation of additional speed humps, and discussion occurred during the 2025-NOV-24 GPC Meeting regarding the introduction of bollards
- Staff have advised against the use of multi-way stops as a traffic calming tool

Councillor Armstrong advised that the Lost Lake Neighbourhood Association has disbanded.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concerns regarding adding physical barriers along the centre of the road (e.g. no post barriers and bollards) as this could create “choke points” on an already narrow road
- Acknowledged that the greater danger to pedestrians and cyclists is not from the average driver, but rather from reckless and irresponsible drivers
- Concerns regarding potential hazards to walkability in areas of low visibility
- Support for elevated crosswalks if they are in areas of good visibility
- Stops signs are used as a right-of-way control rather than speed control
- Concern that drivers are encroaching into pedestrian space to bypass the concrete medians
- Keeping the concrete median and bollards together is an effective traffic calming measure
- Crosswalks are not effective as speed mitigators
- RCMP enforcement in the area is difficult as there is no place to pull over
- Support for speed humps rather than speed bumps
- Concerns that the bollards create a false sense of security
- Sidewalks are not feasible in this area due to the topography, cost, and location of driveways
- Creating a raised metal walkway along the ditch adjacent to the road would not be a feasible solution as there are implications around the structure being easily damaged or causing damage to vehicles
- There have been discussions regarding prohibiting parking on a portion of the road; however, some people rely on street parking in the area

- The white colour of the bollards at the Smokey Crescent intersection was chosen based on standard practice through the transportation industry (yellow separates traffic moving in opposite directions and white separates traffic moving in the same direction)

(b) City Staff Engagement Related to Public Safety and Street Disorder

Ruth Taylor, At Large Member, Public Safety Committee, requested an update regarding Staff's engagement with the residents and businesses related to the Hub since the 2025-JUN-11 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

C. Wood, Manager, Social Planning, provided an update on the neighbourhood engagement regarding public safety and street disorder. Highlights included:

- Continued engagement with Neighbourhood Associations and residents in the area on a regular basis
- Meeting with the South End Community Association (SECA) and residents from Nob Hill to discuss the Hub services
- Attending the regular Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings
- Meeting with Chase River Neighbourhood Association through the neighbourhood integration process for the supportive housing sites in the south end
- Potential future engagement includes a CAC style network for the entire south end and transition planning for when the Hub closes

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding the relocation of the Hub.

(c) Solutions for Public Congregation Near The Hub

R. Taylor, At Large Member, Public Safety Committee, noted that at the 2025-JUN-11 Public Safety Committee Meeting, there was discussion regarding traffic safety concerns with the congregation of people outside the Hub entrance. They requested an update regarding the feasibility of using the parking lot adjacent to the Hub for unhoused individuals to gather instead of the sidewalk on Nicol Street.

C. Wood, Manager, Social Planning, provided an update regarding the use of the parking lot for public congregation near the Hub. Highlights included:

- Staff consulted with the building owner and Hub service provider

- Concerns regarding the use of the parking lot included the lack of direct access to the Hub
- Staff have since received direction from Council to relocate the Hub
- Staff investigated the possibility of having stairs from the parking lot to the Hub entry; however, this would be a considerable cost
- The use of the parking lot would require an additional staff member for the Hub service provider

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Challenges regarding enforcing City bylaws in terms of congregation
- When someone uses substances their ability to move even short distances is onerous
- The Hub owner and operator's responsibility for controlling the clients after vacating the facility
- Enforcement may not ultimately solve the problem of congregation
- The RCMP is aware of reports of illegal activities at the Hub
- In principle, nuisance liability can extend to acts connected to a property, even if they occur off site, provided there is a sufficient causal relationship

J. Millbank vacated the Boardroom at 5:03 p.m.

- Congregation on the sidewalk is a barrier to active transportation
- Ensuring that the impact from the Hub in a new location is better mitigated from the start
- Staff have received positive feedback following Council direction to increase cleaning services in the south end

(d) Discussion re: Future Committee Direction

Councillor Armstrong addressed concerns among the Committee regarding the lack of meetings and agenda items, and spoke regarding Council's role in referring items to the Committee, working with Staff to establish standing items for the Committee, and encouraged Committee members to reach out if they have ideas to bring forward.

It was moved and seconded that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to provide regular updates on the Hub to the Public Safety Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Concerns with a lack of items being referred to the Committee
- The desire to see the Committee accomplish more
- Acknowledging that while the homeless crisis is at the forefront, a lot of what is being discussed is provincial mandate and there are a number of other public safety issues that can be addressed (e.g. fire and traffic safety)

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, outlined the process for the Committee to make recommendations to Council for items that fall outside of the Committee's workplan.

Committee and Staff discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Encouraged a safe and respectful dialogue during Committee meetings to ensure members feel comfortable to express differences of opinion
- Public safety is a broad topic and the best use of the Committee is to be focused on a specific issue
- The rationale behind Council's direction to remove question period from Committee meeting agendas
- Encouraging delegations at the Public Safety Committee Meetings to create better transparency at the Committee level

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:44 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER