

Advisory Transportation Committee

Minutes

March 18, 2003

Present: Rob Wickson, Alan Cassels, Karl Darrall, Norm Hardy, Gerry Howell Jones, Jeremy Mannall-Fretwell, Bob McLeod

Regrets: Tim Galavan, Jane Worton

Staff: Councillor Fleming, Brad Dellebuur, Transportation Section and Anita Cranwell, Recording Secretary

Irwin Henderson from the Advisory Planning Commission and John Luton, Chair of the Cycling Advisory Committee, also attended the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m., in Committee Room #1 with Rob Wickson in the Chair.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED

SECONDED

That the agenda dated Tuesday, March 18, 2003 be approved as circulated with the following additions:

- Under Action Items – two new motions to review
- Dockside – Update
- Taxi Index Order

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOVED

SECONDED

That the minutes of the meeting on February 18, 2003 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Jeremy Mannall-Fretwell noted from last months minutes that the discussion regarding the Vancouver Island Livery Association again illustrates the need to revisit the entire Vehicle for Hire Bylaw. Brad Dellebuur noted that Commercial Use of Public Space is currently under review and includes use of pedicabs, tour buses, rickshaws, horse and carriage, etc.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Discussion re: Victoria West and area Transportation Issues

Rob Wickson advised that he had an informal meeting with the Chairs of four other advisory committees to discuss transportation issues. As a result of that meeting, two motions were put forward for group discussion.

1. Smart Growth Motion:

The following motion was discussed. Committee members agree that it is a good idea to raise Smart Growth issues with Council and believe that if all four advisory committees pass this motion to take to Council, it may carry more weight.

MOVED

SECONDED

Over the past several months, the Cycling, Environment and Shoreline, Planning and Transportation Advisory Committees have found themselves initiating motions and taking action in order to promote specific aspects of community growth. They include but are not limited to, transportation demand management, green building design, reduction of urban densification, affordable housing and sustainable living. As a collective we have realized what each committee has attempted to do in isolation, could have deeper meaning if a foundation for such initiatives were in place. We feel that the Smart Growth BC principles offer such a foundation.

We wish to encourage and build upon the successes of the recent year and work with, and encourage the City of Victoria to take advantage of some excellent examples and opportunities offered through Smart Growth BC. We are confident that the philosophy, guiding principles and content offered by the Smart Growth initiative could be effectively adopted to meet the needs of our city today and tomorrow. From these isolated conversations that have become a collective dialogue, we put forth the following motion:

The Advisory Transportation Committee recommends the City of Victoria sponsor a Smart Growth Work Shop for Council and staff to attend in order to fully understand how our city can use Smart Growth principles as a framework to be applied to the stewardship of our community.

CARRIED

2. Transport Demand Management Motion:

The recommendation is for a TDM study to be undertaken in parallel with the Victoria West area wide transportation study. There was some discussion on funding for the TDM study and possible ways to approach a recommendation to Council. Staff will need to look at funding and other implications of doing a TDM study in conjunction with the Victoria West Transportation study and report their findings and recommendations to Committee of the Whole. Committee members approved the following motion:

MOVED

SECONDED

Further to their January 2003 motion recommending a Victoria West area wide transportation study, the Advisory Transportation Committee recommends that Council take advantage of the excellent opportunity presented to have staff undertake a parallel Transport Demand Management (TDM) study in Victoria West.

CARRIED

BIKE BOX

John Luton, Chair of the Cycling Advisory Committee attended to discuss the Bike Box concept, which is being proposed for the Wharf Street and Johnson Street intersection. Members had an opportunity to review concept drawings and discuss the proposal. The Bike Box will allow cyclists to “queue jump” at that intersection in order to get ahead of motorists. The Bike Box has worked successfully in other North American and European cities, reducing conflict between cyclists and motorists. John Luton gave a brief background on this concept and the process involved up to this point.

After some discussion, the committee approved the following motion:

MOVED

SECONDED

The Advisory Transportation Committee supports the bike box program proposed by the Cycling Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

BIKE LANES

There was also discussion on bike lanes in the City of Victoria. Committee members were in general, supportive of bike lanes and raised several points for consideration:

- Shared use and the future of bike lanes – more modes of transportation will need to share road space, so bike lanes may need to include scooters, rollerblades, etc.
- Intersections – still hazardous for motorists and cyclists alike. Public education needed.
- Road Markings – get the bike lanes in first, then look at developing standard markings for different modes of transportation.

John Luton noted that while conflicts do occur at intersections, the bike lane markings are more effective than having no bike lanes at all and road users do observe road markings, regardless of the colour. Rob Wickson thanked John for attending. Bike lanes will be discussed again at the a future ATC meeting.

BC TRANSIT FUNDING & SERVICE STRATEGY REVIEW

The BC Transit Funding & Service review document was distributed for discussion and comments. The document has provided different funding models and is asking City Council for input. Both City Council and Saanich Council have passed motions on this review document and have asked for consultation before the Provincial Government makes a final decision. There was some discussion on community buses, service cuts and possible services which may be provided in the future. Rob Wickson would like to see a model developed before final decisions are made. Councillor Fleming will pass along comments to Council.

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

Rob Wickson advised that the deadline for feedback is June, however they are still waiting for several reports back and the March meeting was postponed. Rob will report back on any progress at the next meeting.

OTHER ISSUES

Restrictive Parking – Cook and Hillside

Jeremy described the area of restrictive parking on Cook Street which is of concern. Just north of the Cook Street, Hillside intersection there is a section where vehicles must quickly try and merge and suggested a possible option to eliminate potentially dangerous maneuvers. Brad Dellebuur suggested he contact Keith Kresse in the City's Transportation Section to discuss this further.

Greener Parking Lots

Committee members discussed changes to the Zoning Regulation Bylaw which encourages permeable surfaces for parking areas within the City of Victoria. Also discussed the City's plan to replace hundreds of catchbasins around the City in order to reduce pollutants entering local waterways. It is felt that such programs are positive, particularly as more developments will mean more hard surfaces and all positive efforts should be encouraged.

Dockside – Update

Tim Galavan will give an update at the next meeting.

Taxi Index Order

Norm Hardy updated the committee on proposed tariff changes for taxis. The taxi industry has made an application to allow for tariff increases in an attempt to cover cost of living increases. There will be another surcharge coming to cover increased fuel costs.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 15, 2003, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Committee Room #1.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.