



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

Minutes
Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians
(ACTBiPed)
March 18, 2015 6:30p.m.
Council Chamber

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Mary Wilson
Virginia Ayers
Marion Orser
Devin Schellenberg
Keith Ross
Andrew Feltham (left at 9:10 p.m.)
Todd Beernink
Karon Trenaman

Chair
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
ICBC Representative

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Lukas Slotman
Alexander Csizmadia

Committee Member
Committee Member

NON VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Sukh Maghera

Coordinator, Parking & Animal Services

STAFF:

Eugene Wat
Jerry Behl
Carilyn Cook
Sgt. Mike Garbutt
Lauren Blake (left at 6:45 p.m.)

Manager Infrastructure Planning
Transportation Engineer
Committee Secretary
New Westminster Police Department
Legislative Services

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Procedural Note: Presentations Item 3.1, Committee Oaths and Orientations, was held prior to the start of the meeting.

After a brief introduction and short overview of the Orientation Package, including the City's Social Media Policy, Rules of Conduct, etc., Lauren Blake commenced with the Committee Oath of Office.

Upon completion of the Committee Oaths and Orientation, Councillor Johnstone initiated a round-table introduction for new Committee members.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Amazing Disaster Rally – Councillor Johnstone

This Item is discussed under Reports and Information, Item 6.3.

1.2 Parkade Pedestrian Component – Virginia Ayers

This Item is discussed under New Business, Item 5.7.

1.3 Adoption of the March 18, 2015 Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians Meeting held on March 18, 2015 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of the Minutes of January 14, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians Meeting held on January 14, 2015 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Committee Orientation and Oath of Office – Lauren Blake

Completed prior to the start of the meeting, as noted above.

3.2 Distracted Driving Campaign – Karon Trenaman

Karon commenced with her presentation (see attached).

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Status of ACTBiPed Recommendation to Council re Request to Change of Terms of Reference – Councillor Johnstone

Councillor Johnstone informed the Committee that the Recommendation was taken to Council on Monday, February 23, 2015 and Council voted in favour of the Motion to amend the ACTBiPed Terms of Reference to include a position for a representative of ICBC.

4.2 Status of ACTBiPed Recommendation to Council re Request for Eastbound Columbia Street Bus Stop (No. 106 Bus) – Eugene Wat

Eugene informed the Committee that this Recommendation did not go to Council as it was determined that this request only requires initial inquiry by Staff with Coast Mountain Bus Company and does not necessarily require a formal Recommendation to Council at this stage. Staff are in discussion with Coast Mountain Bus Company on the possibility of adding a new bus stop on Columbia Street in the vicinity of the Trapp + Holbrook Building site, including the type of bus stop, how to minimize the impact it would have on parking, etc. In future, the funding and resource aspect of this request may have to go to Council by way of a Recommendation.

4.3 Access to École Fraser River Middle School – Simplified Map of School/Diagonal Crosswalk – Jerry Behl

Jerry notified the Committee that the opening of École Fraser River Middle School has been deferred until September 2016. Staff will be updating the Best Routes to School Map ("Map") for the School in a format applicable to a middle school and will include other modes of getting to school including transit, etc. Staff will be meeting with HASTe (Hub for Active School Travel) and the School in the next few weeks to discuss the new Map and will keep the Committee updated on these discussions.

Regarding the diagonal pathway, there will be a route through the park. Pedestrians may not be able to walk through the school ground when school is in session, however, there will be a designated pathway to connect from Royal Avenue to the crossing at Queens Avenue. An easier to view map will be presented at the next meeting in order to outline the pathway to the Committee.

Members discussed:

- The bike path on 9th Street terminates at the park; bikeways should connect to other bikeways. Staff will review the options to ensure good bikeway connectivity in the Map.
- The École Fraser Middle School landscaping map can be discussed at the next meeting and will be circulated prior to the meeting.

4.4 Possible Elimination of Regular Pedestrian Push Buttons – Jerry Behl

Jerry informed the group that a report was taken to Council on December 8, 2014 regarding outstanding Actions/Recommendations from the ACTBiPed including pedestrian activated push buttons. The City will be looking to eliminate push buttons walking parallel to Columbia Street at crossings such as Begbie Street, McKenzie Street, Church Street, etc., and also at high pedestrian intersections such as 6th Avenue and 8th Street. Staff are investigating the daytime hour operation of these crossings; push buttons will likely be required for evening hours when there are fewer pedestrians.

Members discussed:

- Explore adjustable noise level signals, as we do not need the same level of sound at night.
- The Committee's goal is to have automatic calls for pedestrian walk, and the push buttons should only activate the audible signal for the visually impaired.
- Staff have consulted other municipalities including Vancouver and Burnaby on their practices, i.e. where they have eliminated buttons and where buttons remain. Vancouver has almost no push buttons where there is a high demand for pedestrians crossing such as downtown and other commercial areas; however, they still use buttons in some locations, such as at Terminal Avenue and Main Street, and other locations that have a complex movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Many crossings in New Westminster resemble crossings in Burnaby where they have kept the pedestrian-activated walk display.

- Elimination of buttons is a viable option where there are pedestrians crossing in all directions. Staff are looking for locations that meet that criterion such as locations along Columbia Street and along 6th Avenue, etc.
- Staff will bring an update on the progress of this issue and also possibly invite Don Henderson, Transportation Engineer, working on this project.
- Councillor Johnstone stated that this issue will be brought to the Mayor's Transportation Task Force, as a policy needs to be established on this issue.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Alternate Chair – Councillor Johnstone

After a brief discussion, Marion Orser was elected as the Alternate Chair.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Marion Orser act as the ACTBiPed Alternate Chair for the 2015 term.

CARRIED

All Members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2 Pedestrian Accessibility to Sapperton Triangle Park – Councillor Johnstone

Councillor Johnstone informed the Committee that the desire line at the Sapperton Triangle Park is an extremely well-beaten pathway that pedestrians use to access the Wells Gray Place neighbourhood and, when it rains, it does not drain properly and becomes very muddy.

Members discussed:

- Desire lines may indicate where a sidewalk could be added.
- Staff agreed to consult with Parks staff to see about making this a more permanent pathway, perhaps spreading crushed gravel as a way to improve the drainage situation. To be added to the Action List.

5.3 Filming Permit Criteria – Councillor Johnstone/Devin Schellenberg

Devin explained to the Committee that during recent filming in Queen's Park, the film crew blocked a curb letdown, forcing a person using a scooter to go the long way around. Devin emailed his concerns to Staff and they were forwarded to Scott Harper, the City's Filming Co-ordinator.

Members discussed:

- The question was raised as to what requirements are needed in order to issue a filming permit. The Committee was read the Code of Conduct for filming in the City, which can be found on the City's website at http://www.newwestcity.ca/business/filming_in_nw.php
- Carilyn will extend an invitation, on behalf of the Committee, to Scott Harper to ask him speak to members about how filming is managed within the City (i.e. pedestrian traffic management, etc.).

5.4 Pedestrian Crossing of Royal Avenue & 11th Street – Marion Orser

Marion voiced her concerns about the pedestrian crossing at this intersection and suggested that a marked pedestrian crosswalk be implemented at this location. Currently, the City has a consultant reviewing the pedestrian crossing at this location. Staff will report back to the Committee on the status of this request. This Item will be added to the Action List.

5.5 Plans for Sidewalk on Dublin Street at 12th Street – Mary Wilson

Mary informed the Committee that on the north side of this intersection there is no sidewalk, and the local business uses this area for parking. Staff will add this location to the sidewalk improvement program; hopefully, a sidewalk will be installed this year.

Members Discussed:

- There is a design criteria for driveways; commercial driveways would be wider than residential driveways.
- The City is trying to establish access for laneways where possible in order to minimize front driveway access, especially along busy streets.
- There are limitations to what the City can require builders to do and the City does not have the legal ability to hinder front access to residences.
- Eugene will join Mary on the walk of the area.
- Carilyn will extend an invitation to Kim Deighton from Bylaws to speak with the group about encroachment on green space/pedestrian space and enforcement of bylaws relating to same.

5.6 Belmont Street & 6th Street Crossing – Eugene Wat

Eugene informed the Committee that as there are a significant number of pedestrians crossing at this location, it has been identified for potential improvements. Staff have reviewed the crossing and conducted a detailed

technical evaluation. Based on the location, pedestrian and vehicular volumes, and low pedestrian accident history, it is recommended that a pedestrian activated overhead flasher with illumination be installed at this crossing.

Members discussed:

- Installing a full pedestrian signal at this location would be challenging given the proximity to the light at 6th Street and 6th Avenue. With two lights, pedestrians might not want to wait so long to cross, so there is a concern of jaywalking.
- Staff proposes taking a report to Council recommending a special crosswalk with overhead amber lighting to create awareness of a pedestrian waiting to cross.
- Staff are looking for input from the Committee. Given the study, the City is bound to implement some safety measures at this location.
- The City is trying to balance everything together for a reasonable solution and determining whether it will be instant activation or a few seconds delayed so that people don't just step out into the intersection.
- Other suggestions for this intersection included a 3-way stop, constant flashing red or orange lights, widening the sidewalk and crossing, etc.
- Overall, the Committee likes the staff recommendation as there is little that needs to be done here except for making it a little safer at night.

5.7 Parkade Pedestrian Component – Virginia Ayers

Councillor Johnstone informed the Committee that there is a group of people who are interested in saving the parkade section that is scheduled for demolition and would like to see the west half of the parkade restored and repurposed into a pedestrian-friendly park space.

Members discussed:

- The contract for the demolition is currently out for tender and will be closed in two weeks' time.
- The west parkade will continue being used while the east parkade is being restored. Once that is complete, the demolition of the west parkade will commence and is estimated to be completed at the end of the year in order to move forward with the frontage improvements. This is a sequential process; it cannot all be done at once.
- Once the tender is awarded, there is potential for a penalty if there is a change to what was put out in the tender document.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Action List

Due to time restraints, it was decided that the Action List will be reviewed at the next meeting.

6.2 Jane's Walks – Mary Wilson

Jane's Walks are starting up again at the beginning of May. Carilyn will email the link to Committee members.

6.3 Amazing Disaster Rally – Councillor Johnstone

The 2nd annual Amazing Disaster Rally will be held on Saturday, May 9th at the end of National Emergency Preparedness Week. This event is hosted by the City and the New Westminster Police Department.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Johnstone took the opportunity to ask members to think about what the Committee can do this summer with respect to walking and biking outings to visit areas of concern around the City.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 20, 2015
Wednesday, September 9, 2015
Tuesday, November 3, 2015
Wednesday, January 13, 2016

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 9:21 p.m.


Original Signed

Councillor Patrick Johnstone
CHAIR


Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

focus on...
Distracted Driving




Driving behaviours are learned.

building trust. driving confidence. 


New Westminster ACTBiPed
Karon Trenaman
ICBC Road Safety Coordinator

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distracted driving



- Distracted driving is now the **second-leading** cause of car crash fatalities in our province.
- Police statistics show that about a quarter of all fatal crashes in B.C. between 2009 and 2013 were related to distracted driving.
- That's an average of 88 deaths per year.*



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Although there are many types of distraction, the most common involve the use personal electronic devices (PEDs) by drivers



Source: Infographic <http://auto.erieinsurance.com/distracted-driving-infographic.aspx>; data: NHTSA (FARS 2010-11)

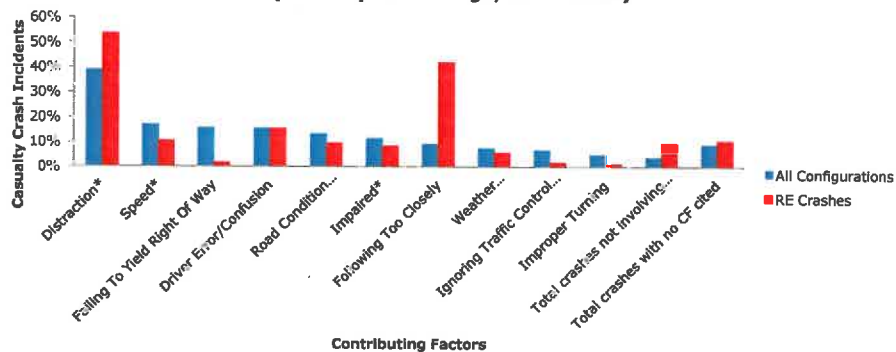
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3

The top contributing factor in police-reported casualty crashes – especially rear-enders – is driver distraction



Contributing Factors in Casualty Crashes
Rear End Crashes and All Configurations
(TAS: 8 year average, 2005-2012)



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4

With smartphones we've added social media apps, games and email




Currently, smartphones are the devices of choice



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5

And the types of devices we choose will continue to evolve, as will the types of distraction they afford us



The trend toward wearable devices – like smart watches and Google Glass – is expected to grow significantly in the next few years



And 'connected' or 'smart' in-vehicle systems are also on the rise, turning cars into 'smartphones on wheels'

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6

The 3 Pillar Approach



- **Legislation**
 - New law introduced in 2010
 - Enhancement of the law Oct 2014
- **Enforcement**
 - Regular and intermittent
 - Highly visible
- **Education**
 - Community engagement
 - Advertising & earned media
 - Public awareness campaigns

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7

community support



Community Policing volunteers conducted Cell Watch deployments to remind drivers to leave their phones alone, and record noticeable driver distraction.

ICBC provided media support for enhanced enforcement during the campaign.



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8

community education



- Demonstrating the effects of distraction with a driving simulator



- Reviewing the results on the distracted walking course

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social media & P2P communication



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stakeholder engagement



The image shows two website screenshots. On the left is a Telus article titled "Is Distracted Driving All in Your Mind?" with a photo of a driver. On the right is a WorkSafeBC "Safety at Work" page with a "Distracted Driving" section featuring a graphic that says "Distracted Driving: When you're behind the wheel, driving is your only job." Below the screenshots is the text: "ICBC is engaging stakeholders like Telus and WorkSafeBC to expand the reach of the message." At the bottom is the slogan "building trust. driving confidence."

ICBC is engaging stakeholders like Telus and WorkSafeBC to expand the reach of the message

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let's talk!



common misconceptions about driver distractions:


- ✓ "I can call or text when I'm stopped at a red light."
- ✓ "It's ok to use some of the other features on my phone while driving."
- ✓ "Emergency calls are okay."
- ✓ "The law is the same for all drivers."
- ✓ "Using the speakerphone is allowed."

The short and "tweet" of it:

Stuck in traffic or stopped at a red light?
#LeaveYourPhoneAlone
- you're still driving!

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KR5C5



let's talk!


- ✓ Place calls before you drive.
- ✓ Turn your cellphone off, place it in the trunk of your car or in the back seat so you won't be tempted to talk, email or text when you're on the road.
- ✓ Let passengers make or receive calls and texts for you.

The short and "tweet" of it:



You're 4x more likely to crash if you're on the phone while driving.
#Leaveyourphonealone

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let's continue the conversation

- Display your decal
- Take the pledge, and encourage/challenge others to do so as well
- Make use of the tools available for your use
 - Fact Sheets
 - Social media suggestions
 - Digital material
 - Distracted Driving Course
 - Distracted Driving Simulator
- Drivers can create a culture where they encourage each other to avoid distractions behind the wheel so that our roads are safer for everyone

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Slide 13

KR5C5 these hashtags are still out of date. see the key messages doc for the september campaign.
Milner, Mark, 10/30/2014