

Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians (ACTBiPed)

**September 11, 2013 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jonathan Coté	Chair
Mary Wilson	Committee Member
Lukas Slotman	Committee Member
Patrick Johnstone	Committee Member
Patrick Harris	Committee Member
Virginia Ayers	Committee Member
Marion Orser	Committee Member
Keith Ross	Committee Member
Bruce Warren	Committee Member
Devin Schellenberg (arrived at 6:42 PM)	Committee Member

NON VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Michael Ewen	School Board
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VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Andrew Feltham	Committee Member
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GUESTS:

Ingrid Tymm
Gavin McLeod

STAFF:

Jerry Behl	Transportation Engineer
Fan Jin	Transportation Technologist
Eugene Wat	Manager Infrastructure Planning
Stacey Neves	Committee Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 6:34PM

The Committee meeting opened with a short video on obstructions in bike lanes.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 City of Victoria's "Tour de Disaster - Cyclist Emergency and Disaster Response Rally" – Virginia Ayers

This item was discussed under new business item 5.7.

1.2 Try My Wheels Video Series Update – Bruce Warren

This item was discussed under new business item 5.8.

1.3 The City's See, Click, Fix App – Stacey Neves

This item was discussed under new business item 5.9.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of the Minutes of May 15, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Advisory Committee for Transit, Bicycles and Pedestrians meeting held on May 15, 2013 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Master Transportation Plan Update – Jerry Behl

The Committee was advised that the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) is currently at the stage of preliminary plan development. Items incorporated in the plan include:

- Road Network Plan
- Transit strategies
- Accessibility concerns
- Pedestrian and cycling network plans
- Truck routes

Once a draft plan has been submitted to the City a copy will be forwarded to Committee members for comments.

Committee members discussed:

- Traffic calming initiatives
- Tying transportation planning into land use planning as the two go hand in hand.

4.2 East Eighth Avenue Crosswalk Improvements Update – Jerry Behl

The committee was updated on the continuous discussions in relation to the crosswalk improvements along East Eighth Avenue (information can be found on the City's website).

General Discussion Ensued in regards to:

- Public consultation and the different opinions received on options
- Ensuring that the ultimate changes made favour cyclists and pedestrians for example having a cut out for bikes on the curb bulge. Staff advised they would look into this.
- Having marked bike lanes along East Eighth Ave., perhaps even painted a different colour.
- Having special crosswalks at the intersections with the flashing lights for pedestrian safety.

4.3 5th St. and 5th Ave. Cycle Route Connection – Jerry Behl

The Committee was shown the proposed design drawing for changes to the 5th St and 5th Ave intersection (see Engineering for attachment). Committee members were advised that Engineering Staff are awaiting feedback from Parks Staff in relation to the design as it will impact a mature tree in the intersection.

4.4 Queensborough/BC Parkway Signs Update – Fan Jin

The Committee was presented with information on the proposed BC Parkway signage upgrades. Committee members were presented with the TransLink's draft signage plan (see Engineering for attachment) and were advised to contact Fan Jin directly with any comments.

Comments made by Committee members included:

- Having the symbols shown facing the direction of travel
- Have the signs say "Uptown New Westminster" instead of 22nd Street Station

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Issues and Concerns Discussed during the 2013 ACTBiPed Summer Walking Tour – Fan Jin

Committee members discussed the issues and concerns discussed during the 2013 ACTBiPed Summer Walking Tour. Items of discussion included:

- Request for increased enforcement around the New Westminster Skytrain Station.
- Cyclists utilizing the entrance on Seventh Ave beside 22nd Skytrain Station signed "Transit Vehicles Only" to access bicycle lockers inside the bus loop.
- Having an overpass link 6th Ave and Stewardson way at the east end of the BC Parkway located near Grimston Park.

The Committee discussed the history of the proposed pedestrian overpass at Grimston Park connecting Sixth Ave and Stewardson Way. The potential costs associated with an overpass were discussed and committee members felt that the City could look at different options for the connection. Currently, there is no connection for pedestrians east of the Queensborough Bridge

however; the public continue to jaywalk to cross Stewardson Way to access the park and 22nd St. Skytrain Station.

General discussion ensued in regards to:

- The original three way agreement between the City, the Province and TransLink regarding the intersection at 20th Street and the possibility of an overpass as part of the Queensborough Bridge Project. Unfortunately no funding opportunities came available.
- The funding priorities from the revenue of the City's current digital billboard signs. Members were advised priority funding was given to Canada Games Pool and the Massey Theatre.
- The cost estimates associated with the overpass as part of the BC Parkway Upgrade. Estimates included \$7.24 million for option A and \$11.68 million for option B.
- The possibility of an at grade crossing at the foot of 20th Street as there is a painted crosswalk equipped with a push button that leads to a median.
- Members expressed that the desire line for both crossings is towards Grimston Park.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct Staff to explore the option of a lower cost overpass or an at grade pedestrian signalized connection from Grimston Park to the south side of Stewardson Way.

CARRIED

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

5.2 Issues and Concerns Discussed during the 2013 ACTBiPed Summer Cycling Tour – Jerry Behl

Committee members discussed the issues and concerns discussed during the 2013 ACTBiPed Summer Cycling Tour. Items of discussion included:

- The property at 430 Canfor Ave. staff advised they would make a note that should the property come up for sale that the City look at having a route for bicycle run through it.
- Having the Brunette Fraser Greenway loop back to the Central Valley Greenway where it comes out at Hume Park.

5.3 Construction Compromising Pedestrian Routes – Mary Wilson

Committee members discussed concerns of pedestrian routes being compromised during construction and concerns with pedestrian safety. Staff advised that the City is currently developing a policy to ensure that all sidewalks remain open during construction projects unless it is demonstrated to be impractical and other provisions provided. Staff also advised that as City resources to monitor Construction activities are limited and that it is best that the public contact Engineering if concerns arise to follow up. It was suggested that residents associations be advised regarding permit requirements and different ways to report concerns. Staff advised once this has been completed that it would be reported back to the Committee.

5.4 Bench Placement Throughout New Westminster – Virginia Ayers

Committee members discussed the lack of benches throughout the City and how benches seem to benefit everyone at different locations throughout the City, not just in parks or at transit stops. Staff advised that there no allocated funding for benches as they are generally installed at transit stops (funded by advertisement companies) or as part of larger infrastructure projects along pedestrian and cycling corridors (the Central Valley Greenway). Also, benches are preferred at high traffic and pedestrian areas but may not be well received in some residential areas due to complaints regarding loitering and garbage litter.

Members discussed:

- Having a policy developed of bench placement through the City's Master Transportation Plan.
- Incorporating funds into the City's budget for bench placement
- Having creative designs incorporated into the benches and utilize it as public art
- Constraints as to where benches can be placed such as grades and offsets to current street furniture and infrastructure.
- How seating in public spaces builds community

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS:

The current bench program is not adequate for current or projected needs

Seating in public spaces is an important part of pedestrian and transit infrastructure.

THAT Council include public seating in next year's budget process and explore a program to find creative solutions to public seating needs.

CARRIED

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

Committee members were asked to forward creative seating options from around the world to Councillor Cote.

5.5 Queensborough to the Quay Connection – Marion Orser

Staff summarized the "Quayside to Queensborough Pedestrian/Cyclist Crossing Options" report to Council prepared by Mark Allison and Roger Emanuels for the June 17, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Committee members discussed:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian routes leading up to the proposed overpass.
- Where additional funding would come from if required.
- Existing floodplains and the structure of the bridge options.
- The width of the bridge. It was requested that the bridge be at least 4m wide to accommodate both pedestrian and cyclist traffic. Staff noted that the proposed design is a 3m wide crossing similar to other overpasses.

Committee members were encouraged to provide their opinion on the two options through the City's survey available on the website.

5.6 London Street Greenway – Marion Orser

The Committee went over a report prepared by a Committee member in relation to the London Street Greenway (See Engineering for Attachment). Staff are to follow up and respond to concerns outlined in the report at the November 2013 Committee meeting.

5.7 City of Victoria's "Tour de Disaster - Cyclist Emergency and Disaster Response Rally" – Virginia Ayers

A Committee member brought forward information on the City of Victoria's "Tour de Disaster - Cyclist Emergency and Disaster Response Rally". It was suggested that this item be referred to the City's Emergency Advisory Committee for information.

5.8 Try My Wheels Video Series Update – Bruce Warren

The Committee was advised that filming has been postponed until spring 2014 due to a low volunteer response during the summer season.

5.9 The City's See, Click, Fix App – Stacey Neves

Committee members were provided with information and a short tutorial on the City's See, Click, Fix App.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Action List Discussion

6.1.a) Update from previous meetings

6.1.b) Member Concerns

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING

TBD

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm

Councillor Jonathan Coté
CHAIR

Stacey Neves
COMMITTEE SECRETARY