



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee **DATE:** March 7, 2000
FROM: Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
 Manager, Transportation **FILE:** 0100-20-TSAD1-01
RE: **RICHMOND TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - SUMMARY OF 1999**
****ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROPOSED YEAR 2000 INITIATIVES****

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the proposed Year 2000 initiatives for the Richmond Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, as outlined in the attached report from the Manager of Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That staff be directed to report back to Council on the results of the proposed Year 2000 initiatives for the Richmond Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation

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STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

In March, 1997 Council endorsed the establishment of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) to allow staff to work in partnership with the community and other agencies to enhance traffic safety in Richmond. Since its inception, the Committee has dealt with a wide range of traffic safety related issues from school-specific items to community-wide traffic safety concerns. This report summarizes the Committee's achievements in 1999 and identifies the challenges and opportunities for the current year, which define the proposed Year 2000 initiatives.

ANALYSIS

1. Committee Mandate and Membership

The overall mandate of TSAC is to involve community groups, external agencies, and other stakeholders in a process to enhance traffic safety in Richmond. The Committee achieves this mandate by: identifying and participating in the implementation of traffic management and engineering solutions to address traffic safety concerns; and by promoting traffic safety through the undertaking of education and enforcement programs. TSAC has representation from the following groups: City of Richmond Transportation Department (Chair), City Traffic Operations, City Bylaw Enforcement, Richmond Fire-Rescue, Richmond School District, Richmond RCMP, ICBC, and the Richmond District Parents Association.

2. Activities and Accomplishments in 1999

TSAC addressed a broad range of traffic safety issues in 1999. The achievements of the Committee include resolving numerous school zone traffic safety issues, providing input in the planning of traffic calming projects, identifying strategies and actions to deal with violations of traffic and parking regulations, and giving input on proposed parking regulations and traffic control devices. The following are highlights of the major 1999 initiatives.

2.1 School Traffic Safety Audit - Implementation of Recommended Actions

A comprehensive review, "*School Traffic Safety Audit*", was undertaken by the City to enhance the overall traffic safety around all Richmond elementary schools. The Committee made a significant contribution to enhancing traffic safety in school zones by being involved in the following activities related to implementation of measures identified in the *School Traffic Safety Audit*:

- Developing the "Traffic Safety Around Schools and Playgrounds" brochure for distribution to all schools and community centres in Richmond;
- Encouraging participation by all Richmond schools in the "Way to Go" Program (an ICBC sponsored program aimed at encouraging more trips made by walking and cycling to/from school);
- Participating in planning of a "Return to School" education campaign and the Traffic Safety Awareness Week;
- Increasing enforcement of school zone traffic violations;
- Introducing parking regulations to address safety hazards caused by traffic congestion at school frontages;
- Developing and installation of new "Advance School Zone" signs with highly reflective material;
- Improving parking and circulation layout at a number of schools;

- Upgrading traffic control devices; and
- Installing new sidewalks and crosswalks to improve pedestrian access to school sites.

2.2 Input on Traffic Calming and Traffic Safety Enhancements

The Committee has provided input into the following traffic calming and traffic safety enhancement projects:

- Raised centre medians on River Drive (No. 4 Road to Shell Road);
- Raised centre median at Barnard Drive and Granville Avenue;
- Curb extensions (a traffic calming measure involving road narrowing) on General Currie Road and Jones Road (No. 3 Road to St. Albans Road);
- Signage and pavement marking on Bamberton Drive and Tweedsmuir Avenue;
- Mid-block closure of Heather Street (Blundell Road to Dixon Avenue);
- Crosswalk upgrade, sidewalk installation, and traffic signage enhancements on Saunders Road (Bakerview Drive to No. 4 Road);
- Walkway on Ash Street; and
- Walkway on McLennan Avenue.

2.3 Enforcement of Traffic and Parking Regulations

The following parking and traffic violation enforcement-related results were achieved with contribution from the Committee:

- Increased RCMP and City Bylaw Enforcement presence at various locations responding to speeding and parking violation concerns;
- Co-ordination of enforcement schedules to maximize the effectiveness of enforcement efforts;
- Achieving a traffic speed reduction on the Blundell Road corridor through the Blundell Corridor Enforcement Program; and
- Monitoring and enforcement of the speed limit on Westminster Highway in the Hamilton area.

2.4 Speed Watch Program

The Committee provided support to the "Speed Watch" program. This program is aimed at making drivers more aware of their speed of travel, particularly if the posted speed limit is exceeded. With input from the Committee, a new "Speed Watch" group is being planned to address concerns about speeding on Westminster Highway in the Hamilton Area.

2.5 Parking Regulations and Traffic Control Devices

The Committee also provided valuable feedback on the following new parking regulations and upgrading of traffic control devices:

- 24-hour arterial road parking ban;
- The installation of larger traffic signal heads (12 inch versus 8 inch) and yellow back-boards;
- New pedestrian-controlled overhead illuminated crosswalk signs;
- New bright yellow pedestrian push buttons; and
- Possible sites for additional application of red-light cameras in Richmond.

3. Proposed Year 2000 Initiatives

In addition to the identification and implementation of remedial measures to deal with reported traffic safety hazards, proactive initiatives to enhance traffic safety awareness and education will continue to be the main focus of the Committee. The overall mandate of the Committee is achieved by increasing the level of partnership with external agencies and stakeholders and by the implementation of a combination of education, enforcement, and engineering measures. The major initiatives for 2000 are therefore proposed to focus on the following categories:

3.1 School Zone Traffic Safety

The Committee will continue to be extensively involved in the following activities related to enhancement of traffic safety in school zones:

- Continued implementation of the "School Traffic Safety Audit" recommendations;
- Developing a second edition of the "Traffic Safety Around Schools and Playgrounds" brochure for distribution to all schools and community centres in Richmond;
- Increasing the participation rate of the "Way to Go" Program;
- Taking an active role in the planning of the "Return to School" education campaign and the Traffic Safety Awareness Week;
- Co-ordination of enforcement of school zone traffic violations;
- Improving parking and circulation layout at schools; and
- Introducing new sidewalks and crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety.

3.2 Education and Enforcement

The Committee will provide feedback to the following education and enforcement efforts:

- Initiating and/or participating in various traffic safety awareness and education campaigns;
- Placing continued emphasis on parking regulations and speed limit enforcement;
- Providing support to the new Hamilton Area "Speed Watch" group; and
- Reviewing automobile crash statistics and identifying potential locations for additional red light camera installations.

3.3 Innovations

The Committee will be involved in the development of the following innovative solutions to traffic safety issues:

- Assisting the City in the formation of a traffic calming policy;
- Providing input into the installation of traffic signage, traffic calming measures, crosswalks, and sidewalks;
- Working with the City and other agencies on the introduction of innovative measures to address traffic safety hazards (such as application of non-skid pavement surface);
- Providing input into the planning of traffic signal improvements; and
- Working with the City and other agencies to improve the legibility of street name signs.

3.4 Partnerships

The Committee will assist the City in partnering with external agencies and the community in the undertaking of the following traffic safety initiatives:

- Continued partnership with external agencies and the community in carrying out various traffic safety and automobile crime prevention initiatives;
- Providing input in the joint ICBC/City Corridor Traffic Safety studies;
- Providing input into initiatives that are aimed at raising the awareness of drivers and pedestrians of the traffic-related aspects of the #98 B-Line project;
- Increasing dialogue with neighbouring municipalities, provincial agencies and other industry contacts to share knowledge and to gain feedback on initiatives implemented in Richmond; and
- Implementing traffic safety conscious planning into new developments.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no specific budget for this Committee. The expenditures related to the installation of traffic control devices, walkway construction, and other road and traffic-related improvements are normally accommodated in the City's annual capital budget. Some financial contributions are made by external agencies. For example, ICBC has made contributions toward education campaigns and traffic-related infrastructure improvements, and the Richmond School Board has made contributions toward the production of the school traffic safety brochure.

CONCLUSION

Since the inception of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, the Committee has brought many stakeholders together to deal with a wide range of traffic safety issues. The results of the various initiatives undertaken by the Committee have been extremely encouraging and effective. The Committee has many challenges again in the current year. These challenges are reflected in the proposed year 2000 initiatives. The main focus of the Committee for the current year includes initiatives related to school zone traffic safety, education and enforcement, innovations, and partnerships.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Manager, Transportation
(on behalf of the Richmond Traffic Safety Advisory Committee)

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