



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** December 23, 2011
From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
 Director, Transportation **File:** 01-0100-20-TSAD1-01/2011-Vol 01
Re: TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – PROPOSED 2012 INITIATIVES

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2012 initiatives for the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, as outlined in the report from the Director, Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That a copy of the above report be forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
 Director, Transportation
 (604-276-4131)

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ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Community Bylaws	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
RCMP	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
Fire-Rescue	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES
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Staff Report

Origin

Council endorsed the establishment of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) in 1997 to create a co-operative partnership between City staff, community groups and other agencies that seek to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety in Richmond. The Committee provides input and feedback on a wide range of traffic safety issues such as school zone concerns, neighbourhood traffic calming requests and traffic-related education initiatives. TSAC currently has representation from the following groups: Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), Richmond School District, Richmond RCMP, Richmond Fire-Rescue, and the City's Transportation and Community Bylaws Divisions.¹ This report summarizes the Committee's activities in 2011 and identifies proposed initiatives for 2012.

Analysis

1. Activities and Accomplishments in 2011

The Committee's major activities and accomplishments in 2011 are summarized below.

1.1 Road Safety Measures

The Committee provided input on and/or participated in the following measures aimed at improving the safety of Richmond roads for all users:

- *Traffic Calming*: potential installation of speed humps and other traffic calming measures on various roadways to address vehicle speeding concerns;
- *Driver Feedback Signs*: installation of new electronic unit on Gilbert Road south of Finn Road;
- *No U-Turn Signage*: review of existing "No U-Turn" signage to determine its effectiveness;
- *No. 3 Road Median Railings*: proposed installation of centre median railings on No. 3 Road to deter jaywalking by pedestrians in the vicinity of Aberdeen and Richmond-Brighthouse Stations;
- *Illegal Passing of School Buses*: enforcement and education initiatives to deter motorists from illegally passing school buses when the vehicles' red lights are flashing;
- *Update of Scooter Brochure*: update of the City's "Road Safety Tips for Scooter Users" brochure to incorporate new technology and information; and
- *Arterial Road Crosswalks*: continuation of a city-wide phased program to upgrade the minimum standard of arterial road crosswalks to "special crosswalks" with internally lit overhead signs with downward lighting and pedestrian-actuated amber flashers and beacons.

1.2 On-going School Zone Traffic Safety Activities

The Committee contributed to enhancing school zone traffic and pedestrian safety through the following activities:

¹ The Committee has been without a representative of the Richmond District Parents Association (RDPA) since July 2009. Staff have made several requests for a new member to Richmond School District staff as well as the Council-School Board Liaison Committee. As staff recognize that a volunteer parent may find it challenging to attend TSAC meetings, staff will advise the RDPA that individual Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) members are welcome to attend TSAC meetings to discuss any school-related traffic safety issues.

- *Enforcement*: on-going enforcement of school zone traffic regulations, particularly during back to school periods such as the beginning of school terms in September; and
- *Parking & Access*: providing input on the improvement of parking and circulation layouts and identifying the requirement for and providing input on the installation of new walkways and crosswalks as well as upgrading existing crosswalks to improve pedestrian access.

1.3 Road Safety Campaigns

The Committee participated in various ICBC- and RCMP-led road safety campaigns including:

- *Distracted Driving* (February 2011): police and traffic agencies across the Lower Mainland participated in a multi-jurisdictional wide campaign targeting “distracted driving” including drivers using cell phones.
- *Commercial Vehicles* (March 2011): enforcement and vehicle inspections co-ordinated with the cities of Vancouver and Delta;
- *Railway Crossings* (April 2011): road safety at railway crossings co-ordinated with CN Rail; and
- *Impaired Drivers* (July-August 2011): province-wide CounterAttack road checks.

2. Proposed Initiatives for 2012

In addition to developing and providing input on corrective measures to address identified traffic safety concerns, the Committee will undertake a number of proactive initiatives to enhance traffic safety and promote traffic safety education.

2.1 Road Safety and Traffic Calming Measures

The Committee will participate in the following measures to improve the safety of all road users:

- *Traffic Calming*: the assessment, implementation and monitoring of road safety and traffic calming measures where warranted in local neighbourhoods, together with consultation with Richmond RCMP and Richmond Fire-Rescue prior to the implementation of any traffic calming measures;
- *Pedestrian & Traffic Safety*: continue to support and participate in on-going multi-agency efforts to increase the level of pedestrian and traffic safety, such as annual campaigns held by ICBC and Richmond RCMP;
- *Accessible Pedestrian Signals*: provide input on the implementation of accessible pedestrian signal features at signalized intersections and special crosswalks;
- *Overhead Illuminated Street Name Signs*: provide input on priority locations for the installation of overhead LED illuminated street name signs, which will improve wayfinding for all road users, particularly at night; and
- *Discouraging Vehicle Speeding*: the member agencies of the Committee will continue to jointly work on initiatives to curb vehicle speeding in the community, such as the targeted enforcement program of the Richmond RCMP.

2.2 School Zone Traffic Safety – On-Going Programs

The Committee will continue its involvement in the on-going review and improvement of traffic and pedestrian safety in school zones through:

- improving vehicle parking and circulation layout at schools;
- supporting the enforcement of school zone traffic violations; and
- introducing new walkways and crosswalks as well as upgraded crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety.

2.3 Other Programs and Initiatives

The Committee will continue to work on and/or provide input to the following programs and initiatives:

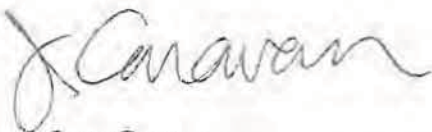
- *Steveston Parking Strategy*: provide input on possible traffic safety implications of any proposed parking strategies (e.g., parking in laneways);
- *Special Events*: provide comment and input from a traffic safety perspective on the development and implementation of traffic management plans to support special events; and
- *Richmond Parking Advisory Committee*: provide input to this Committee as required, as some items may have traffic safety implications (e.g., installation of crosswalks and changes to on-street parking regulations).

Financial Impact

As in previous years, staff resources required to support this Committee have been included in the proposed 2012 Operating Budget. Costs associated with the installation of traffic control devices, walkway construction and other road and traffic safety improvements are normally accommodated in the City's annual capital budget and considered as part of the annual budget review process. Some of these projects are eligible for financial contribution from external agencies (e.g., ICBC and TransLink).

Conclusion

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee is one of the few multi-agency forums in the region dedicated to enhancing pedestrian and traffic safety within its home municipality. Since its inception in 1997, the Committee has provided input on and support of various traffic safety improvements and programs and initiated a range of successful measures encompassing engineering, education and enforcement activities. Upon Council endorsement of these initiatives, staff will forward a copy of this report to the Richmond Council/School Board Liaison Committee for its information.



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(on behalf of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee)