



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** November 22, 2016
From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
 Director, Transportation **File:** 01-0100-30-TSAD1-01/2016-Vol 01
Re: Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Proposed 2017 Initiatives

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2017 initiatives for the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, as outlined in the staff report titled “Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Proposed 2017 Initiatives” dated November 22, 2016 from the Director, Transportation, be endorsed.
2. That a copy of the above staff report be forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.

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

Att:1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Fire Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

Council endorsed the establishment of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) in 1997, in order 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 has representation from the following groups: Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), Richmond School District, Richmond RCMP, Richmond Fire-Rescue, Richmond District Parents Association, and the City's Transportation and Community Bylaws Departments. This report summarizes the Committee's activities in 2016 and identifies proposed initiatives for 2017.

Analysis

The Committee's major activities and accomplishments in 2016 are summarized below.

Road and School Zone Safety Initiatives in 2016

The Committee provided input on and/or participated in the following measures aimed at improving the safety of Richmond roads for all users, particularly in school zones.

- *Pedestrian Zone Markers – School Zones*: Given the past success of in-street mounted school zone signage in school zone locations in Richmond, two signs were installed within the school zone on Odlin Road fronting Tomsett Elementary School. Identical signs were also installed on the section of Westminster Highway north of Highway 91 in front of Choice School for the Gifted. However, due to repeated vandalism (i.e., illegal removal of the signs) at this location, staff are now considering the installation of speed humps in the school zone, subject to expressed support by local residents.
- *Traffic Calming*: Installation of speed humps in Burkeville (two on Airport Road in front of Burkeville Park) and on Dyke Road (two in the 23,000-block). Modifications to the existing traffic circle on Saunders Road at Whelan Road to improve driver awareness at the traffic circle and reinforce the requirement to yield to other traffic that comprised road markings and delineation to channel drivers to the right as they approach the traffic circle, painted white hatched "stop" bars to provide reference for vehicle staging, improved placement and enlarging of yield signage, and the addition of yield ahead signs at each approach to the traffic circle.
- *Potential Pilot Project for Pedestrian Safety*: Members discussed the feasibility of implementing a pilot project intended to enhance the safety of pedestrians at signalized intersections, particularly those with high pedestrian volumes. The pilot project would assess the effectiveness of a "Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI)," which is a traffic signal strategy whereby pedestrians are given the "Walk" signal typically three to seven seconds prior to the activation of a green light for motorists. Research indicates that by giving pedestrians a head start, it is less likely that there will be conflict between pedestrians and turning vehicles. LPIs increase the percentage of motorists who yield the right-of-way to pedestrians because

pedestrians are in the crosswalk by the time the traffic signal turns green for parallel vehicle movements. The Committee is currently considering a potential location (likely in the City Centre) for the pilot project.

- School Travel Planning: Continuation of a pilot program with the Richmond School District, TravelSmart (part of TransLink) and HASTe (Hub for Active School Travel, contractor to TravelSmart) to develop a customized School Travel Plan for three elementary schools: Garden City, AB Dixon and Walter Lee. The Plans aim to create an environment that encourages healthy and active transportation to and from school, improves the journey for those who use vehicles or take school busses, and improves transportation safety for everyone. Attachment 1 provides a draft “Safe Routes to School” map, which is one component of the plan, for Walter Lee Elementary School developed in consultation with parents and City and Richmond School District staff.

Amendments to Traffic Bylaw 5870

The Committee provided input on the development of amendments to the City’s Traffic Bylaw 5870, which include permitting motorcycle and bicycle parking at intersections corner clearances and new regulations and fines for jaywalking, pedestrians disobeying a traffic control device and drivers yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks. The amendments were adopted at the November 14, 2016 Council meeting and staff are preparing to convey the key changes to the public via avenues such as a City Board notice in the Richmond News, updating the City’s website, safety pamphlets to be handed out at future pedestrian safety campaigns, and social media.

TransLink Regional Goods Movement Strategy – Commercial Vehicle Staff Working Group

Through City staff participation on the TransLink Working Group, the Committee is providing input on proposed actions to harmonize regulations concerning truck size, weight and noise across the region and develop a centralized regional permit system that is coordinated with the provincial permit system to provide a single point of contact for trucking companies operating within Metro Vancouver to obtain needed permits, including for oversize/overweight trucks.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Campaigns in 2016

Committee members participated in the following ICBC- and Richmond RCMP-led road and pedestrian safety campaigns.

- Pedestrian Safety: In Fall 2016, Richmond RCMP in partnership with ICBC and Richmond Fire-Rescue conducted four pedestrian safety education and enforcement campaigns (e.g., distribution of reflectors and proactive engagement with pedestrians) in Richmond.
- “Project Swoop”: During this event held in May, Speed Watch volunteers set up a speed reader board at a high incident crash location and those drivers who choose to continue to speed even after being clocked by the Speed Watch volunteers will receive a speeding ticket from an RCMP officer a few blocks down the road. Four officers and 28 volunteers were deployed at eight locations and checked over 4,000 motorists.

- *Distracted Driving*: As part of this campaign that is conducted year-round, RCMP officers and community police volunteers conducted two “Cell Watch” blitz days in March and September and checked over 11,000 motorists. Community police volunteers conducted a further two “Cell Watch” blitz days in March and June.
- *Auto Crime Awareness*: As part of this annual campaign, community police volunteers conducted two “Lock Out Auto Crime” blitz days in February and issued 1,850 notices. Lock Out Crime audits are also conducted year-round by community police volunteers.

Proposed Traffic Safety Activities for 2017

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 in 2017.

- *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.
- *School Zone Traffic Safety*: 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. Specific schools planned for review and potential improvement include Cambie Secondary School, Hamilton Elementary School and Choice School for the Gifted.
- *Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Projects and Campaigns*: Implement and assess a pilot “Leading Pedestrian Interval” project at a selected City Centre intersection, provide input on potential road safety improvement measures on River Road in the vicinity of Westminster Highway and 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.
- *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 Richmond RCMP.
- *Special Events*: Provide comment and input from a traffic safety perspective on the development and implementation of traffic management plans to support special events.

Financial Impact

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). If successful, staff will report back on the amount of financial contribution obtained from these

external agencies through the annual staff reports on ICBC and TransLink cost-sharing programs respectively.

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. Staff recommend that the proposed 2017 initiatives of the Committee be endorsed and this staff report forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.



Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner
(604-276-4035)
(on behalf of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee)

Att. 1: Draft Safe Routes to School Map for Walter Lee Elementary School

Draft Safe Routes to School Map for Walter Lee Elementary School

