



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** January 18, 2019
From: Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
 Director, Transportation **File:** 01-0100-30-TSAD1-01/2019-Vol 01
Re: **Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Proposed 2019 Initiatives**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the proposed 2019 initiatives for the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, as outlined in the staff report titled "Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Proposed 2019 Initiatives" dated January 18, 2019 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.

Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
 Director, Transportation
 (604-276-4131)

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: 	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 2018 and identifies proposed initiatives for 2019.

Analysis

The Committee's major activities and accomplishments in 2018 are summarized below.

Road and School Zone Safety Initiatives in 2018

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 in School Zones*: Given the past success of in-street mounted signage in school zones and other locations in Richmond, two signs were installed on Railway Avenue adjacent to Homma Elementary School to advise approaching motorists of the crosswalk (Figure 1).



Figure 1: In-Street Pedestrian Zone Markers on Railway Avenue

- *School Zone Traffic Safety*: The Committee reviewed and responded to a number of traffic safety concerns at various schools across the city. These concerns were typically related to motorist speeding and illegal parking/stopping in school zones, driver behaviour within school sites (e.g., prohibited turns when exiting parking lots) and pedestrian crossing facilities near schools. The issues were addressed by a variety of measures, each tailored to

the specific site conditions at the school. These measures included increased enforcement in school zones by Community Bylaws and Richmond RCMP, deployment of Speed Watch volunteers, clearing of vegetation to improve sightlines at crosswalks, and the installation of a new crosswalk and connecting sidewalk (on Finlayson Drive to serve Tait Elementary School).

- *River Road (No. 6 Road-Westminster Highway)*: Identification of and feedback on road safety improvement measures on River Road to address on-going concerns related to motorist speeding and conflicts with cyclists.
- *Commercial Vehicle Enforcement*: Community Bylaws continued to provide enforcement of commercial vehicles including overweight vehicles travelling on weight restricted roads, failure to display a valid BC Commercial Vehicle Licence Decal, and on-street parking during restricted hours.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Campaigns in 2018

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

- *Pedestrian Safety*: In October-November 2018, Richmond RCMP in partnership with ICBC and Richmond Fire-Rescue conducted three pedestrian safety education and enforcement campaigns that involved the distribution of 5,000 reflectors and proactive engagement with pedestrians. Locations focused on No. 3 Road around the Richmond-Brighouse and Lansdowne Canada Line stations and the Bridgeport Canada Line station.
- *“Project Swoop”*: During this annual event held in May, Speed Watch volunteers set up a speed reader board at a high incident crash location that displays the motorist’s speed. Those drivers who continue to speed even after being clocked by the Speed Watch volunteers receive a speeding ticket from an RCMP officer a few blocks down the road. Nine officers and 29 volunteers were deployed at a total of 11 locations and checked nearly 7,000 motorists. Locations included the No. 5 Road-McNeely Drive, Garden City Road-Saunders Road, Westminster Highway-Kartner Road, and Cook Road at Cook Elementary School. A total of 62 violation tickets were issued.
- *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 one in September that included a total of 15 deployments (comprising 25 RCMP officers and 50 volunteers) who collectively checked over 28,000 motorists. Targeted locations in March included Alderbridge Way at Garden City Road and No. 3 Road, and Westminster Highway-Garden City Road. Locations in September featured No. 3 Road in the City Centre and the Alderbridge Way corridor. A total of 58 violation tickets were issued.
- *Auto Crime Awareness*: As part of this annual campaign, RCMP officers and community police volunteers conducted four “Lock Out Auto Crime” blitz days throughout the year and issued nearly 2,000 notices. Almost 43,000 notices were issued in total for 2018. At the same time, nearly 3,500 licence plates were checked as part of the Stolen Auto Recovery program. If a plate number comes up as a match, the volunteers notify police. Locations

focused on parking lots for shopping malls, hotels and other destinations. Over 208,000 vehicle plates were checked in total for 2018, but none were identified as stolen vehicles.

Proposed Traffic Safety Activities for 2019

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 2019.

- *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.
- *Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Projects and Campaigns*: Continue to support and participate in on-going multi-agency efforts to increase the level of pedestrian and traffic safety, such as the annual campaigns held by ICBC and Richmond RCMP in various locations.
- *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 deployment of Speed Watch volunteers in various school zones when requested by principals and the targeted enforcement program of Richmond RCMP.
- *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.
- *Special Events*: Provide comment and input from a traffic safety perspective on the development and implementation of traffic management plans to support special events (e.g., World Festival, Farm Fest).

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.

Financial Impact

None.

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

January 18, 2019

- 5 -

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 2019 initiatives of the Committee be endorsed and this staff report forwarded to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.



C. ROBERTSON (ACTING)

Bill Dhaliwal
Supervisor, Traffic Operations
(604-276-4210)



Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner
(604-276-4035)

JC:jc