

MINUTES
East Sooke Road Safety and Improvement Forum
February 15, 2018
East Sooke Community Hall

Sponsored by the East Sooke Neighbourhoods Association

Guest List

Bruce Fogg – Executive Assistant to Premier John Horgan
Corporal Dawn Gilhen - RCMP, Sooke Detachment (sitting in for Staff Sgt. Jeff McArthur)
Ryan Evanoff - Operations Manager, Southern Vancouver Island, Ministry of Transportation
David Bigelow - Captain Operations, East Sooke Fire Department
Mike Hicks - CRD Director Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

Attendees

Approximately 70 East Sooke residents, and some residents from Sooke

Linda Nehra from ESNA

Introduces ESNA.

Review of Agenda.

ESNA Initiatives:

- Needs Assessment Survey and Report (May 2015).
- ESNA Website (Aug 2016). Focus on services available for residents, with ongoing updates (e.g. Family Caregivers Network Society section being developed).
- Wild Fire and Emergency Preparedness Community Meetings
- Road Safety – Worked with MOTI to familiarize them with East Sooke concerns. Lobbied for post-seal coating improvements, yellow centre line, 3 way stop sign (East Sooke Road and Gillespie, reflectors, Yield sign at Roche Cove bridge), improvements to Hwy #14 and Gillespie intersection.
- Transportation for Seniors. Working with Metchosin's Seniors' Information and Resource Centre to expand their driving program to East Sooke seniors.

Introduces Guests.

Opening remarks from guests

Interspersed with comments and questions from the audience.

Bruce Fogg

Works for John Horgan MLA. He wants to stay in touch. Summarizes announcements on Highway 14 corridor. There are more announcements to come. Is here to listen and take back concerns. There will be a new Roche Cove bridge and improvements to Sooke Highway. Thanks MOTI for their work.

Audience Member – Lists problems on East Sooke roads - potholes, erosion near East Sooke Park near to the road. A tree came down across their driveway. From Endurance Trail to Beecher Bay there are many trees leaning over the road.

Ryan Evanoff

Ryan manages a large area working closely with Area Managers that report to him. His service area is from Ladysmith south, west to Lake Cowichan and Port Renfrew, east to the Saanich Peninsula, Saltspring and southern Gulf Islands including the unincorporated areas, a number of highways and scattered bits of First Nations Reserves. Shawn Haley is Area Manager, Roads, for areas including East Sooke. Day to day Ryan is in charge of all seasons maintenance , signing off on expenses for Area Managers and auditing of Mainroad South Island Contracting. He is responsible for Hwy#14 road improvements just announced. Currently bus stops are being redone to allow buses to pull off road. LED style lights going in at Gillespie Road and Connie Road, LED chevrons to be put in at Gillespie Road and at Gillespie intersection improvements include vegetation removal, painting, new lighting and signs. Existing Roche Cove bridge will remain in use while new bridge is built. 3.5 to 3.6 m per lane - 2 lanes. 1.5 m paved shoulder on each side. Not raised. Will build base and half of deck. Then decommission old bridge and use new bridge. Ryan mentioned it is valuable for him to come to meetings like this to hear road concerns and to respond.

Audience Member - Centre lines and fog lines need to be redone on Gillespie. Centre road deflectors are damaged. At the Gillespie intersection vehicles turning left or right use the same lane. People are blowing stop signs. High number of alcohol containers and litter along the roads.

Audience Member - Sent an email to Mr. Hicks on fading yellow line and he forwarded it on but it seems nothing was done. Paint the yellow line. Chip sealing was great. For you guys to ignore problems is unconscionable.

Ryan – For specific line painting contracts – no crews active currently. Cannot do line painting in winter.

Audience Member – East Sooke Road at Ocean Spring Terrace has been patched but keeps sinking. Is there budget for fixing road?

Ryan – The maintenance model for routine maintenance and designated projects such as re-surfacing roads/replacing culverts has a budget of \$100,000 yearly for every side road in South Vancouver Island. Not much funding provided. There are regional programs for side road resurfacing.

Corporal Dawn Gilhen

Here in place of Staff Sargent Jeff McArthur who sends regrets. Trained in traffic enforcement. Can answer questions on speed, impaired driving. Here to listen and will take questions back to Jeff. Plans are being made for policing East Sooke and East Sooke Road. RCMP Sooke Detachment is fairly well staffed now with two new officers available to ticket speeders and distracted and impaired drivers. There will be a lot of road checks set up. Her specialty was in investigating collisions. Accidents are now referred to as collisions as 90% of the time they are driver error. Traffic enforcement is going to be present in East Sooke area.

David Bigelow

The East Sooke Fire Department responds to emergencies on the road. His role is to listen and report back to Fire Department. The Fire Department's concerns shared with ESNA were line width, shoulder and ditching, line of sight, and vegetation maintenance/control.

Mike Hicks

CRD has nothing to do with highways, all a provincial responsibility.

He covers a large area on Vancouver Island with other regional road concerns - Port Renfrew flooding, West Coast road logging trucks, Otter Point road - no shoulders to walk on.

Fortunate to have local MLA who is Premier.

This is our chance to tell MOTI what the issues are.

Linda Nehra

Showed road issues priorities list based on survey and conversations with residents:

- Safety of Junction of Hwy. 14 and Gillespie Road: turns onto Gillespie from Langford, turns to and from Sooke from Gillespie, lighting, speed of drivers on Hwy. 14, and visibility.
- Driver behaviour: tailgating, speeding, not staying in lane.
- Width of East Sooke Road for cars, trucks. No safety for cyclists or pedestrians.
- Poor lighting on East Sooke Road (and on Hwy. 14).
- No warning on East Sooke Road when Fire Trucks are dispatched

Opened meeting to discussion and questions.

Discussion

Audience Member - Highway keeps us young. Increasing population – more traffic. Concerned about Gillespie & Hwy#14 intersection especially unsafe left turn and 17 Mile House Pub roadway. Suggest advisory committee with a sequenced plan to set priorities to make East Sooke more survivable and fix corner.

Ryan - Premier requested expansion of Highway 14 Corridor study and it is still being written. The Corridor study is significant, expanding to include Port Renfrew, bigger ticket items. Primary concerns are the issue of \$\$ to the size of project & private property appropriations. Gillespie Rd/Hwy#14 intersection fix could impact private owner land. Everything is being studied and considered at this time, will be reviewed by CRD and Municipalities and will look at best bang for buck. Will take a long time. Parkland Road to Connie Road # 1 concern. Corridor Report is still in the works and not available presently. Big fixes on the horizon. Earlier studies available on Google, look for Sooke Road Study or Hwy#14 Study.

Audience Member – The yellow center line is being worn out because people driving on wrong side of road. Many speeders, tailgaters and bad drivers. Wide load trucks do not have pilot vehicles. Dump trucks with pups should not be allowed.

Ryan - problems not unique to East Sooke. Result of antiquated road standards. 50% of province roads are gravel, South Vancouver Island is 99% paved to put it into provincial perspective. Frustrating for residents and himself. No legislative ability to restrict dump trucks and pups.

Dawn - Commercial vehicle enforcement includes checking for insurance. Can do extra work here if required. Figure out where problem spots are during traffic times and present to RCMP. Identify

areas to help RCMP bring collision area numbers down. RCMP needs feedback.

Audience Member - Could we park old cop car at Anderson Cove?

Dawn - We need to figure out where problem spots are and put cops there in high volume times and at high collision areas.

Linda – Together we (the community and ESNA) can help with identification of problem spots.

Audience Member – Biggest problem spot is at boat launch at Anderson Cove near corner.

Ryan – Could co-ordinate with Beecher Bay culvert issue, fixing this summer. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Office – high turnover rate due to lots of retirements recently, finally getting new people and are getting up to speed to get out and check trucks and drivers.

Audience Member - Understand you have to be responsible for RFP's and contracts. What are the priorities?

Ryan – As to line painting, we are under contract with a specific contractor with specific deliverables and cannot just hire another contractor.

Audience Member - Can MOTI repair roads on First Nations land?

Ryan - MoTI is only responsible for East Sooke Road on Beecher Bay First Nation.

Audience Member - Do you have info on how busy Beecher Bay road is?

Ryan - Yes but information is old. There are different classifications of roads. Road Classification is determined by the amount of maintenance required, different sections of road have different classifications

Audience Member – Will the new bridge take out s-curve and when will it be done?

Ryan - Bridge will be closer to cove should ease out curves, there will be lots of earth moving. Design / surveying/archeologists going on now, start construction this summer, in dream world it will be finished by end of next summer. No guarantees though.

Audience Member - How do you determine when jobs get done? Are there deliverables?

Ryan – An example of routine maintenance, sections of Hwy#1 are done once per year. For side roads, it is quantitative, a list of roads made thru public complaints; somewhat thru collision choice, data from ICBC.

Linda - Can we call RCMP if there is a road problem?

Dawn - We need a license plate number, if possible. Dial 911 and safely follow behind the vehicle If

you can, until an officer can get there. If you are willing to go to court, then officer can write ticket. Officers can also give a letter to the owner. A dashboard webcam (front & back now available) would be useful and can be brought into RCMP office.

Audience Member - Lived out here 27 years. Seen a lot of alcohol containers. The gradient/high accident sign at the top of hill at Grouse Nest road (1400 block Gillespie) disappeared and several attempts to have it replaced have gone unanswered. With heavy dump trucks being used currently and especially with bridge construction this is a great concern.

Ryan - Those are things I can do. Signage are things that can get done.

Mike - Can get road related signs put up on private property. East Sooke can identify some signs - 2 x 4 coroplast sign at \$50ea. Mike can provide as long as well worded. Mike has provided signs for Otter Point and they are on the roadside.

Audience Member – Can we get a “Do Not Cross Centerline” sign, please.

Dawn – RCMP cannot enforce signs these signs if not provided by MoTI.

Ryan – MoTI has a Policy for Standard Signs Manual and cannot put messaging on signs that do not match the Manual. We can increase the size of a sign for example the speed limit sign at Gillespie Intersection.

Audience Member - Are you using high quality road paint for lines?

Ryan – Federal Government legislated “No Lead Base Paint” so MoTI has been using water based paint which wears out quickly.

Audience Member - Kayaker went under bridge and noticed a lot of damage. Is the bridge going to last until the replacement?

Ryan – Yes.

Audience Member - More people are using East Sooke Park, does it warrant reclassification? Visitors do not know road. Should there be a proper bus stop at Anderson Cove.

Ryan - Inspector looked at bridge this year. Was going to be replaced in the future. Premier bumped up schedule. Bridge state is not a problem now. When new road improvement happens, it is done to the standard of the current road classification. But a new classification does not trigger a project. Bus stops are BC Transit responsibility.

Audience Member - East Sooke Road is an old logging road but many drive as if it is a modern road. If turned into a modern road nobody would like that. How do we get people to drive appropriate to road? Could the community communicate road conditions to outsiders?

Ryan - Depends what the sign says but MoTI signage is limited by old regulations. Saseenos School

has their own signs – fully welcome – putting up “Non-offensive “signs – MoTI has no problems.

Audience Member - What can the Premier’s office do to change old regulations?

Bruce - Regulation and law changes come to government through public and public service inputs. Significant likelihood of change to old regulations – probably not high. Regulation changes to roads – there is not a lot of money but suggestions are always welcome. There are lots of things to modernize in legislation. It comes up through public input. The likelihood for change to regulations is low. Not a lot of money across province to change.

Audience Member – There are many infractions at 3-way stop signs. Will send web cam footage to RCMP.

Dawn - We were short staffed but now have more positions and we will see improvement. Short staffed pressure on Township to have another RCMP position approved has gotten another officer. When manning infractions we do not want to be predictable.

Mike – meets once or twice a year with RCMP. Did not know of problems here in East Sooke, and capable of getting RCMP informed. If you tell me specific problems with priority, will talk to Staff Sgt. McArthur.

Audience Member - Police are required for more serious responsibilities than stop sign enforcement.

Audience Member – Has heard every last excuse given tonight since they moved here. Tried to get road improved 25 years ago. Commercial vehicles are wider. Need to widen roads to reduce risks for kids on bikes or on a bus. Road is a wreck. People are going to get killed. We say enough, no excuses. We have been ignored far too long. Parkheights Drive and Leda Road in poor condition. Put road bans on, restrict weight. We got to get CVSC out here.

Dawn – RCMP can partnership with CVSC to identify hot spots and set up a checkpoint.

Audience Member – Leda Road has an entrance to East Sooke Park and there has been so many accessing the park from there, parking along both sides of the road, that there is not enough room left on the road for the Fire Truck to pass through. The side of road parking restricts passage of the Fire Truck. What can be done?

Ryan - We have a lot more stricter regulations and are paying stricter attention. You have been ignored like many small communities. Big focus on new thermoplastic paint being tried and a Huge Blitz on line painting this summer. Regarding Leda Road was at a meeting this afternoon discussing road maintenance. MoTI Service Contracts are in the 14th year of 15 year contract. Expires September 2019. We will renew service contracts to include better winter and summer maintenance.

Mike – What is cost of painting lines? Cats eyes?

Ryan – a quick estimate - \$8500 for 4km white paint; yellow paint is more expensive than white. Cat’s eyes are regulated by Provincial specifications.

Mike – Has a Gas Tax Funding account but is rule-restricted and cannot use for roads.

Bruce - Will take this issue to the premier.

Audience Member - When will a traffic light go in at Gillespie Road/Hwy#14 intersection? What will it cost?

Ryan - As part of Corridor study we are looking at that.

Audience Member - Lady in East Sooke turned down a promotion in Sooke because of safety issue to making left turn at Gillespie intersection.

Audience Member – A left at Gillespie Rd and Hwy#14 intersection has lots East Sooke residents choosing to go into Langford to shop rather than going to Sooke just because of the chance of an accident and wanting to avoid making that turn. Sooke is missing out on big business because of this.

Audience Member – Is a petition or an individual request more useful?

Ryan - Priority given to an organization such as a Community Association.

Linda – ESNA will convene a second meeting with residents and guests to refine the list of priorities and develop a report from East Sooke that can go forward to detail our concerns.

Audience Member - Worst place is Anderson Cove corner. A truck with trailer has to cross centre line to launch boat or remove boat with the sharp blind corner right there. Parking is done at the corner with kayakers, boat launchers and boat owners during summer season. This is the only place to launch a boat in East Sooke. If we could improve the corner before there is a major accident with fatalities, it would be a good place for a concrete boat launch.

Audience Member - Electronic sign at 4 lanes. What is it for? Can we get information on the sign during Hwy #14 road closure due to an accident?

Ryan – The sign is to warn traffic when the highway is closed. We don't get information in time to inform public before many cars have gone by the sign.

Audience Member - In OCP there were recommendations for Gillespie Rd/Hwy#14 intersection. Want to see left turn lane at Gillespie Rd & Hwy#14 intersection in order to pull across the (Langford bound) first lane of traffic, to be able to wait for an opening in the Sooke bound traffic.

Ryan – We will have to look at that.

Audience Member – There is not enough room for two cars to sit side by side on Gillespie Road at Hwy#14 intersection and many cars go over the yellow line when turning left to let the traffic flow. Is this an illegal move?

Dawn – Legally have to stay in the one lane if turning left. ICBC makes final determinations in collision incidents using the rules of the road.

Ryan – MOTI is looking at all possible aspects of that intersection, including any required new lane configurations.

Linda – Ends meeting at 9:00 pm.

Attendees developed “Most Dangerous Area” list after meeting was adjourned:

Most Dangerous Areas (not in order of priority):

- Intersection of Gillespie Road and Sooke Road.
- Anderson Cove.
- Point just 300 metres from 2nd Seagirt Road blind spot. Trucks/cars speed around corner. Getting out of East Sooke Road 6400 block – lots of near misses.
- Raglan Place/East Sooke Road intersection.
- East Sooke Road between Coppermine and Llanilar. Dip is blind at the intersection of Coppermine and ES Road. As vehicles from Coppermine turn onto ES Road, they cannot see vehicles on ES Road. As vehicles turn left onto Coppermine from East Sooke Road you can't see oncoming traffic.
- Any road without yellow lines.
- Whenever people are speeding or running stop signs.
- Areas where road is winding and narrow.
- Hill on Gillespie near Grouse Nest – no warning signs to slow down for steep grade. Is a high accident zone for cars/trucks crossing centre line.
- The urgent need for a crosswalk at 17 Mile Pub with a flashing system. Presently anybody taking the bus into Langford or Victoria has to risk their lives to cross the road on their return (Parking Lot to encourage bus transportation).

Ideas for Signs

- “Don't Cross Centre Line”
- “High Collision Area”