

Minutes
East Sooke Road Safety and Improvement Follow-up
March 12, 2018
East Sooke Community Hall
Sponsored by the East Sooke Neighbourhoods Association

Guest List:

Regrets: Mike Hicks - CRD Director Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

Regrets: Corporal Dawn Gilhen – RCMP, Sooke Detachment (for Staff Sgt. Jeff McArthur)

Attendees:

East Sooke Residents

Linda Nehra from ESNA welcomed everyone, reviewed the Agenda and explained the purpose of the meeting: to establish priorities for road safety and to develop a plan to address the priorities.

1st Exercise: Review priorities; add to them.

2nd Exercise: Stakeholder analysis: identify all people who benefit if things stay the same
And all people who benefit if things change.

Discussions produced following results:

Top Priorities Identified: Hwy #14 and Gillespie Road Intersection
Anderson Cove Corner
Speed
Yellow center line
Blind spots
Signs required

Stakeholders involved with priorities:

MoTI – Phase 2 study

Sooke Council – governance with MoTI – Mayor Tait & Sooke District Engineer

Mike Hicks – CRD, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area

RCMP

ICBC

BC Transit

BC Hydro

Sooke Economic Development Commission – Jeremy Wilson, ESNA contact

Sooke Chamber of Commerce

School District #62 – Superintendant, School Bus Contractors & Drivers
 East Sooke Volunteer Fire Department
 Metchosin and Sooke Volunteer Fire Departments
 SEAPARC
 Provincial & Federal Gov'ts: MLA – John Horgan; MP – Randall Garrison
 Beecher Bay Band – Housing/increased population at Spirit Bay & Marina
 Sooke Point and Gillespie Road residents of Sooke served by local roads
 Metchosin residents
 East Sooke Regional Park – Wardens taking stats
 Sooke News – light at intersection reports
 17 Mile House & Bus stops – patrons who frequent one or both

Community members voted on the priorities that had been identified:

Priority #1: Intersection of Hwy#14 and Gillespie Road
 Priority #2: Speeding, running stop signs and unsafe driving
 Priority #3: Anderson Cove
 Priority #4: Trucks and trailers crossing middle line and stopping/parking at the side of the road

It was noted that the lack of yellow lines contributes to the problems experienced with respect to Priorities # 2, 3 and 4.

Priority #1: Intersection of Hwy#14 and Gillespie Road

Suggestions in support of improvements at Hwy#14 and Gillespie Intersection:

- highlight the fact that the safety of children on school buses and the general public on transit buses is at risk with the current situation.
- significant delays occur at corner, affecting bus schedules.
- recommend a similar approach to that taken at the new controlled intersection at Westshore Parkway and Hwy#14.
- as an alternative, traffic lights at the intersection could be on a traffic sensitive circuit, and operate when traffic is present.
- with above changes, there would be a minor inconvenience when traffic comes to a stop at a red light, but this is offset by hours saved on the road waiting for accidents to clear as accidents will be reduced and overall travel time will improve.

Suggestions in support of changes adjacent to 17 Mile House Pub:

- crossing the road is currently unsafe including: transit buses pick up and drop off on opposite side of the road. There are near misses with pedestrians.
- short sight lines for oncoming traffic, cars travel very fast.
- parking area across from returning bus stop – in very bad shape, who paid to have that paved? Liability for car damages at parking lot due to bad road repair.

- for traffic turning left across oncoming traffic into 17 Mile House, at Connie Road & along Hwy# 14 buses, cars & trucks turn across double yellow center line – it is illegal to hold up traffic when turning left with double yellow center line. **meeting attendee located Road Regulations after meeting.

To develop a solid case for improvements, we need population and traffic statistics, some of which may be currently available from different sources. Population & Traffic Statistics, where to find:

- MoTI – for traffic volumes; recorded accidents. This data should be in the process of being compiled as part of their existing review.
- East Sooke Volunteer Fire Department – statistics for attending accident scenes & especially locations. T. Hughes, fire commissioner, will send these statistics to ESNA.
- ICBC – statistics for reported accidents.
- CRD Water Board – separate East Sooke residents from main billing by house numbers?
 - CRD Official Community Plan (OCP).
 - Tax Roll – separate East Sooke residents from main billing.
 - Statistics Canada.
 - Post Office – count of houses serviced by flyers.

Priority #2: Speeding:

- track speed & volume – acquire rubber counters
- RCMP offered us access to a device that records the speed people are going, as they approach the sign – this needs to be followed up.
- Integrated Road Safety Unit (IRSU) – weekend patrol at major traffic volume time; is IRSU funded by CRD??
 - Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) set up an old cop car – reduced death rate due to reduced speeds when motorist are reminded of OPP presence. Perhaps we could do similar?
 - Speeding areas noted when travelling into East Sooke from Hwy# 14: dip before Mt. Matheson turn off, past East Sooke Grocer and straight stretches along East Sooke road.

Priority #3: Anderson Cove Corner

- CRD Parks gazetted park property to MoTI/Hwy Dept for widening corner
- Highway right of way between water & park
- Accident spot – many fender benders
- life safety for School buses, BC Transit and residents
- Blind corner
 - not respecting center line turning corner re: concrete barrier too close to corner makes drivers weary of hitting concrete, so drive over center line instead.
 - boat launch – on & off ramp is steep; needs speed to come out and no sight line either way. Last time paved, road was built up and cars get stuck – drag bottom on pavement edge.

- concrete trucks, trucks with pups, moving vans cannot make corner and back up to negotiate, if don't have to back up, cross center line to make corner.
- culvert – water is not using culvert under the road and is slowly washing supporting material away.
- hydro pole at corner has had to be replaced 3 times since 1993 due to accidents.
- pedestrians and cyclists do not have a shoulder to use.

Suggestions for improvement at corner:

- request Parabolic mirrors to be installed to see approaching traffic around the blind corner from both directions
- request camera mounted at center line to record number of times cars cross center line
- painting graffiti onto concrete barrier for more visibility
- collect data on accidents to substantiate dangerous hill & blind corner
- Mike Hicks has offered to supply signs on request “Do Not Cross Center Line” x2 for both sides of Anderson Cove corner if people agree to have these signs placed on their private property. Could we ask for 2 or more extra to be put up in other places?

Other comments/concerns:

- cyclist and pedestrians do not have a shoulder to travel on – soft shoulders, current shoulder material not packing down but creating dangerous holes near pavement edges and pavement edges are breaking away.
- capture costs from Sooke residents who live on Gillespie Road and Sooke Point to help pay for road condition improvements as population in these areas is increasing and no one is contributing to help pay for the extra usage. Is this being done by CRD/MoTI?

ACTION:

- ESNA to compile information on traffic volume, population statistics and highlights from the 2 recent meetings of East Sooke residents into a report that can be widely distributed and used as an advocacy tool.
- Penny Coates and Petra Sielopp will go to S.D.#62 School Superintendent for support of having a light installed at Hwy# 14 and Gillespie Road and report back by email to esna@eastsooke.ca
- Sonia Lambert and Rick Moffet to help with Anderson Cove to gather data from traffic flow going around corner to support improving blind corner and report back by email to esna@eastsooke.ca
- Penny Coates to attend Anderson Cove Road residents meeting on Saturday March 17 to see if anyone is interested to contribute to Road Safety issues, especially at Anderson Cove and report back to esna@eastsooke.ca
- ESNA to approach Mike Hicks for signs “Do Not Cross Center Line” for Anderson Cove corner and other places to be identified. Clarify with Mike/MoTI on placement of signs.