

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

LATE AGENDA ITEMS SPECIAL COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 @ 5:45 pm Esquimalt Council Chambers

(1) **PERTAINING** to Item No. 5. 1): 2022 Budget Summary - Supplemental Operating and Capital Requests:

Communications Received from:

- Amanda Macdonald, Chair, Walk On, Victoria
- Jaime Hilbert
- Kym Thrift, Esquimalt Local Committee of Capital Bike
- Andrew Leitch
- Elaine Cross

From: Subject: Attachments: Corporate Services FW: Esquimalt Active Transportation Plan ATNP Esquimalt_Mar.14.22.pdf

From: "Walk On, Victoria" Date: March 15, 2022 at 10:18:54 AM PDT To: Mayor and Council <<u>mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca</u>> Subject: Fwd: Esquimalt Active Transportation Plan

Good Morning,

Please see the attached letter from Walk On, Victoria.

Sincerely,

Amanda Macdonald Chair



Mayor and Council City of Esquimalt Email: mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT RECEIVED: ______March 15, 2022 For Information __CAO __Mayor/Council Other_____ Referred to: _____ For __Action __Response __Report For Agenda __Council __COTW __IC

Walk On, Victoria is Greater Victoria's pedestrian advocacy group, with a goal to improve the walkability of the region and promote walking as a healthy, sustainable form of transportation and recreation. Walk On, Victoria would like to express our sincere thanks for adopting the City's first Active Transportation Network Plan. We were very pleased to see that developing "a pedestrian network that provides a safe, enjoyable, and continuous network to promote its use" is one of the top priorities for the municipality.

The emphasis on safety for all modes of transport and reducing speeds is something that Walk On, Victoria feels very strongly about – especially in light of recent incidences where pedestrians and cyclists have been struck by cars.

We understand that staff are currently researching and putting forward projects for the 2022/23 budget year. Walk On, Victoria would like to see lowering speed limits prioritized for the coming year as this will benefit all modes of active transportation. In addition, we would like to see a yearly budget for sidewalk and other improvements to the pedestrian realm allocated that would allow all of the projects identified in the plan to be completed within the next five years.

Thank you for your actions to support pedestrian safety and comfort.

Sincerely,

Amanda Macdonald, Chair Walk On, Victoria

From: Subject: Corporate Services FW: Bike lane development

From: Andrew Leitch <
Date: March 14, 2022 at 8:50:00 PM PDT
To: Mayor and Council < <u>mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca</u> >
Subject: Bike lane development

Dear Mayor and Council of Esquimalt

I wanted to urge you to support the expansion of bike lanes in Esquimalt. I love living here, but one area of improvement for young families is the establishment and expansion of bike lanes particularly along Lampson and Tillicum Bridge. Esquimalt is fantastic but let's make it even better for transportation, safety and the environment.

Thank you for your attention.

Andrew Leitch

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From: Subject: Corporate Services FW: Support for bold action and funding for active transportation

From: Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:14:28 AM To: Mayor and Council <<u>mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca</u>> Subject: Support for bold action and funding for active transportation

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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am a proud citizen of Esquimalt and want to voice my support for the active transportation plan.

This funding for this plan and it's earliest adoption are important to the future of Esquimalt. In the seven or so years since the E&N corridor was completed, traffic on the path has increased substantially, for commuting, exercise and recreation. Adding key elements to this infrastructure adds to the fabric and amenities of the community in such a positive way, and if you build it, the people will come.

Thank you for the plan to make this a reality in Esquimalt, and please follow up with funding to make this a reality as quickly as possible, in particular the Tillich corridor which is a key element to active transportation in the region.

Thank you,

Elaine Cross

From: Subject: Corporate Services FW: IMPORTANT: Budget Meeting and Active Transport

From: Jaime Hilbert
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:48 AM
To: Mayor and Council < <u>mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca</u> >
Subject: IMPORTANT: Budget Meeting and Active Transpor

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Good morning Mayor and Council, I am writing in regards to budget items related to the Active Transport Plan.

I am really excited to see the vision and perseverance of this Council on Active Transport. I am even more excited to actually see something hopefully happen on the ground after years of hearing something is coming and then having funding disappear or get booted ahead.

The design and construction in late 2022 of Tillicum Road is wonderful! This will really help with the new building opening up.

The link to Lampson (and the E&N) though is critical if this Tillicum \$ is actually going to benefit most of Esquimalt and really encourage active transport. Providing that critical link to the E&N and bringing it into the regional network is also really important. I admit I was very disappointed to see things deemed as "short term actions" in the Active Transport Plan are not even being given funding this year for design? Makes me quite pessimistic especially given the election cycle and the past reputation of this council to keep pushing these things another year down the road that we would ever get to anything medium or long term before my kids have kids of their own. Given the climate change emergency that is before us and the gas saving benefit (\$ saving too these days) that active transport offers these items all need to be elevated in the budget as a matter of protecting our future.

My kids and I will be at the meeting tomorrow and look forward to seeing money committed to these critical items.

Thanks, Jaime Hilbert (Sioux Place)

From: Subject: Corporate Services FW: Active Transportation: Budget 2022 Comments (March 15 Council Meeting)

From: Kym Thrift < Date: March 14, 2022 at 8:43:36 PM PDT To: Mayor and Council <<u>mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca</u>> Cc:

Subject: Active Transportation: Budget 2022 Comments (March 15 Council Meeting)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing with respect to the 2022 Budget Summary - Supplemental Operating and Capital Requests discussion scheduled for the Tuesday, March 15, 2022 Special Meeting of Council at 5:45pm. On behalf of the Esquimalt Local Committee of Capital Bike we support the proposed funding for Tillicum and believe there is an important opportunity to strategically fund design of Esquimalt and Lampson in the 2022 budget.

It is our understanding that the \$2,175,000 for Tillicum Road Cross Section Modification & Construction is included in the 2022 budget. This is an important budget line item for beginning the implementation of the Active Transportation Network Plan and is supported. Based on response from Township staff we understand that this would allow design to occur and construction start in late 2022.

In addition to Tillicum, on the critical path to on-the-ground improvements is the design work for the remainder of the North-South and East-West cycling corridors (Short-Term Priorities in <u>ATNP (p. 156)</u>. This means <u>making strategic funding investments now</u> to begin design work for Lampson and Esquimalt by approving at least that aspect of those projects in 2022. It would be *very strategic* for the Township to have design works completed early (ie. approved in 2022 budget) and <u>to be able to apply for grants for funding and construction in the coming year(s)</u>. Deferring action on Lampson and Esquimalt Road to 2024 will mean lost opportunities to access higher-level government funding and much longer timeframes to see the on-the-ground cycling improvements.

Many people have been motivated to participate in the Active Transportation Network Plan process and are excited to support a Council that will take bold and necessary leadership to respond to the climate emergency.

Based on the short-term priority of Esquimalt and Lampson in the ATNP and the strategic value of completing design works early <u>it is recommended that Council direct staff to include design</u> <u>works for Esquimalt and Lampson into a budget scenario for the April 4 Council budget</u> <u>meeting.</u>

Finally, with gas prices at very high-levels residents we anticipate that there will be even more interest in low-emission, sustainable and active transportation modes such as walking and

cycling. Making these investments now is important for making our communities resilient and will reinforce Esquimalt's growing reputation as a desirable community to live, work and play in.

Kind regards,

Kym Thrift

On behalf of the Esquimalt Local Committee of Capital Bike

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