

**Varsity View Local Area Plan Meeting #7**  
**Wednesday, June 9, 2010**  
**Brunskill School Library**  
**101 Wiggins Avenue South**  
**7:00 pm**

**Attendees:** Marianne Amos, Councillor Charlie Clark, Ann Coxworth, Don Harris, Susan Hatfield, Brian & Donna Noonan, Brenda O'Connor, Brad & Cathy Watts, Karen Butler, Tammi Denby, Carol Shuttle, Anne Hardy, Barb Giles; Paula Kotasek, Mark Emmons and Melissa Austin – Planners; Shirlene Palmer – Recording Secretary

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Emmons introduced himself and Paula Kotasek as co-facilitator and Melissa Austin, Planner, who is helping out at tonight's meeting.

Tom Der, Traffic Management Engineer, Infrastructure Services Department was introduced as well.

Mark noted the College Quarter information session is scheduled for Thursday, June 10 at the Williams Building. There will be two presentations, 5:30 and 7:00 pm, both of these presentations will be the same. All were encouraged to attend the meeting to answer any questions they may have. At the last meeting the committee had questions that were sent to James and his answers will be shared with the entire committee when they are received.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss traffic which includes vehicular traffic, pedestrian and cyclists.

**2. Agenda & Ground Rules**

Through this Local Area Plan we have created Foundations for Success (or ground rules) to specify how meetings will be conducted. It ensures that group members feel comfortable in sharing their concerns, opinions and ideas with the group.

1. Listen to each other with respect
2. One person speaks at a time and no side conversations
3. Everyone has an equal voice
4. Let everyone speak
5. Stay focused
6. Speak loudly

**3. Presentation - Traffic**

**Tom, Der – Traffic Management Engineer, Infrastructure Services Department**

Tom informed committee of the organizational structure of Infrastructure Services.  
**Infrastructure Services (IS)**

- Public Works (fix roads, snow removal, etc)
- Parks
- Strategic Services (develop policy standards, asset management and assess what maintenance to be done)
- Facilities (take care of buildings)
- Construction Services
- Transportation
  - Traffic & Operations (highway, arterial, signals, truck routes, express ways) – Goran Lazic
  - Transportation Planning (plan all the new roads, take a look at how city is growing and how to fit new roads in) - Dave LeBoutillier
  - Parking (meters, impound lots, commissionaires, permit parking) - Miles Jarvin.
  - Traffic Management (they deal with all the neighbourhood traffic, attend neighbourhood planning meetings, local and collector roads, traffic calming, sign shop – Tom Der

### **Hierarchy of Roads**

Local – streets and any of the avenues – up to 1000 vehicles

Collector – brings vehicles to local roads – up to about 5000 a day but usually anywhere from 2000 to 4000 vehicles.

Arterials – main roads like College Drive and Boychuk Drive – 5,000 to 10,000 vehicles

Expressway – Circle Drive – over 10,000 vehicles

Part of Traffic Management is neighbourhood traffic, traffic calming, etc. If a road has a lot of speeding they will look at ways to resolve this, bike and pedestrian routes as well as signs and road painting is their department.

Tom stated he checked with the operations groups and noted there have been a few issues identified as well as the historical issues, crossings on College and Cumberland for students, etc. It is his hope with the College Quarter development, this will improve as well as the opportunity to bike. This year they are looking at enhancing the connection of Acadia Drive to 14<sup>th</sup> Street to make the route safer.

Mark noted Tom will address questions related to traffic issues in general; more specifics will be identified in the exercise to follow the presentation.

### **Questions:**

- **I have seen standards for transportation and moving people around in neighbourhoods all over the world, walking, cycling and sustainability. It is great that 14<sup>th</sup> Street is designated for biking, but it has to go somewhere. We need to look at how to get people into other neighbourhoods, such as Greystone and Grosvenor. A pathway is needed east-west. What is the City doing to slow**

**traffic down on some of these streets to make it safer and more beautiful for bikers?**

Tom noted the City started expanding biking infrastructure in the city this past summer. They started downtown to make bikers safer by putting in sharrows to make it more visible to drivers they are sharing the roadway with bikes. More improvement is needed and will be expanding further this summer. That is what the LAP meetings are for to hear from the community what the issues are and what they would like to see done in their neighbourhood.

This summer, sharrows will be expanding downtown going north and south as well as going from Broadway Avenue to Idylwyld Drive and Avenue H on 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 20<sup>th</sup> Street. There are a number of bike improvement projects that will be taking place this summer. One is cleaning up 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Acadia Drive to Preston Avenue, so the transition from Acadia Drive is safer. The bike routes need to be noted on a map and let City know which ones are good and which ones require upgrading.

- **Did you bring any data as to the number of accidents at uncontrolled Varsity View intersections? I feel there are quite a few and my question would be pertaining to the number of these accidents, especially down McKinnon Avenue.**

Tom did not bring this information, but will get it to Paula or Mark who will pass on to committee.

- **Does this discussion include transit? If some of the bus stops were better taken care of more people may take the bus. On the northeast corner of Cumberland Avenue and Main Street you are always standing in water or on ice as the sidewalk is in terrible conditions and there is no shelter.**

Mark noted the issue of bus stop maintenance was brought forward on the Neighbourhood Safety Meeting and that upgrades were needed.

- **There are lots of narrow streets in the area and with cars parked on both sides two cars cannot pass especially in winter. One solution would be one way streets; this may also help at the uncontrolled intersections or only allow parking on one side of the street. Is this possible? How would we go about it?**

Mark confirmed with Tom that this process would be the same as for residential parking permits. A survey of the residents would have to be completed and a high percentage of people would have to agree to it. If you are interested in this you can approach Tom or Councillor Clark to look into it.

- **Concern for students walking to the school. Students walking along Cumberland Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street are not safe, people turning right on red don't pay attention. Committee agrees kids need to be safe, but what can be done about this as it will only get busier with the College Quarter? Could we have a no right-hand turns on red?**

Tom noted there are various things that could be tried. It is important to bring forward any ideas or concerns you have as the City want to know what the issues are.

- **Is there any way to try to control speeding in alleyways? Traffic calming of some sort? Can speed limit signs be put up or caution signs be put up by the City or residents? It can be very dangerous when cars speed down alleyway.**

Tom noted the City does not put up signage in lanes and only the City can put signs up on right of ways. Residents can put signs up on their property asking people to slow down. If there are speeding problems and safety is an issue, let the City know and they will collect data on the alleyway. If drivers are typically driving at dangerous speeds, Saskatoon Police Services would be notified.

- **Who is responsible once the College Quarter is built for the traffic safety of the 400 new students that will be living there? Is it the City's responsibility or the U of S'?**

Tom noted it is the University's responsibility, but the City is involved as well to make sure the crossings are appropriate. Ultimately, some crossings have to be improved and more information will be available at tomorrow's meeting. We will see what upgrades they are planning for the current ones and where new ones might be.

- **There seems to be more of a problem on Clarence Avenue for Varsity View since the overpass to Stonebridge opened. Does the City have any plans to divert traffic or at least slow it down?**

The City has looked at Clarence Avenue south of Ruth Street, but not north. There have been meetings with residents south of Ruth Street and a number of things have been done to calm the traffic, such as lane designation, 4-way stop, number of pedestrian crossings and zebra markings, as well. These problems were identified and dealt with. Certainly these things can be looked at north of Ruth Street, as well.

#### **Comments:**

- It is important when planning to remember to look at the big picture. Not only in Varsity View, but how can we get people biking and walking from Varsity View to Broadway, downtown, Grosvenor Park, etc. There needs to be a path that is safe to bring people through these areas. It is my hope and expectation that the City works with the University to make sure what they are starting can continue on by the City to help people move well through all neighbourhoods.
- Want to make sure it is noted that if the City is going to have designated walking/cycling pathways when it snows they need to be cleaned first, not last, to encourage people to continue walking/cycling.
- Just want to reiterate that due to the fact that Grosvenor Park does not have a school and Nutana only has the French immersion one, Brunskill School is host to many students from outside Varsity View and it must be safe for them to get to school. Pedestrians are not safe on Cumberland, as people go through red lights. Clarence Avenue is not a safe place to cross, even with crosswalks, vehicles don't always stop

as they are usually not paying attention. We really need to work on making it safe for our children.

- The decision to have no parking on the university side of 14<sup>th</sup> Street, making it a bike lane is good. If something like that could be done along Cumberland Avenue, that would alleviate the busyness and make it safer to ride our bike.

Tom noted he is not sure of the history of 14<sup>th</sup> Streets bike lane, but this could be looked at.

#### **4. Small Group Activity**

During the launch meeting for the Varsity View LAP, a survey was distributed to gather feedback on a number of topics. For Transportation and Parking, the community identified the following:

- Residential Parking Permits Program
- Parking congestion near the weir, Varsity View, Hospital and apartments
- Speed & volume of traffic
- Bike paths on streets

The attendees were divided into three groups and asked to keep these in mind, as well as topics discussed at this meeting when doing the exercise.

The purpose of this exercise is to identify traffic and parking concerns in Varsity View.

Each person in the group were to identify locations of concern requiring improvement and explain why this is so. Paula and Mark will then collate all the information from the three groups and bring back to the larger group to review in September at the next meeting.

#### **5. Closing Remarks**

Mark reminded the committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 Safety Audit walk-about:

**Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** – 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Brunskill School Library (Area: President Murray Park and Brunskill School/Kinsmen Children’s Centre Yard)

Paula handed out a meeting evaluation for members to fill out.

Paula thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

**6. Next Meeting:            Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Brunskill School Library Topic: Review**

Note: Beginning in September, the Varsity View Local Area Plan Committee has been invited by the Varsity View Community Association to move our meetings onto the same night as the regular CA monthly meetings to increase participation in the LAP Committee. The September LAP meeting will include a presentation to review the data collected thus far. Currently, the information-gathering process of the Varsity View LAP is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010. However, this will be discussed at the next meeting to ensure there are no additional topics the LAP Committee would like added to the schedule.

**Meeting adjourned: 9:00 pm**