

Skateboarding Regulations

Governance and Priorities Committee Report
For the Meeting of October 8, 2015



Purpose

- To seek Council approval for bylaw amendments that would:
 - permit the use of skateboards and other similar modes of transportation on all City streets,
 - require skateboarders and other similar modes of transportation to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists,
 - eliminate associated impound provisions, and
 - endorse a communication program to increase public understanding on how skateboarders can operate on City streets.



Issues and Analysis

- At the April 16, 2015 Council meeting, Council directed staff to draft an amendment to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw that would permit the use of skateboards and other similar transportation modes on all roadways throughout the City
- Since then, staff:
 - sought legal advice regarding proposed bylaw amendments
 - consulted with Victoria Police personnel on implementation and enforcement of the new regulations, and
 - met with members of the skateboarding community to discuss how best to communicate the proposed changes.



Issues and Analysis

- The BC Motor Vehicle Act gives municipalities authority to regulate and control skateboarders and other similar modes
- The Streets and Traffic Bylaw currently prohibits individuals from riding skateboards and similar modes on sidewalks anywhere within the City
- The bylaw further prohibits individuals from riding skateboards on streets within the downtown core, and on the 2300 block of Trent Street (in place since the 1990's)
- Skateboards can be impounded



Options

1. Amend the Streets and Traffic Bylaw:
 - Remove the downtown prohibition and 2300 block of Trent Street
 - Remove impound provisions
 - Initiate an education program, with a focus on encouraging the use of safety gear. No safety-equipment associated regulations in the bylaw.
2. Amend the Streets and Traffic Bylaw:
 - Remove the downtown prohibition and 2300 block of Trent Street
 - Regulate skateboarders and how they operate on City roadways
 - Advocate for a provincial helmet requirement for skateboarders



Communication Strategy

- Education program:
 - provide clear and accessible information to all impacted stakeholders, and help foster safe and courteous use of downtown streets
 - a video will be developed with skateboarders, highlighting regulations, and best practices
 - brochures outlining the changes will be shared with skateboarders, other road users, and downtown businesses
- Information posted on parking pay stations
- Signage and road markings for bike lanes will be updated to indicate skateboard use is permitted in bike lanes
- Outreach to all neighbourhoods, and work with the Downtown Residents' Association and Downtown Victoria Business Association



Strategic Plan/Financial Plan/OCP Consistency

- Strategic Plan - encourages active transportation, consistent with the objective to complete a multi-modal and active transportation network
- Financial Plan - paint markings and signage, various education program details funded through the existing Transportation Administration operating budget in 2015 and 2016 (approx. \$10,000).
- Official Community Plan Consistency - providing right-of-way space on streets, sidewalks, and footpaths as appropriate for other forms of personal mobility



Recommendations

- That Council:
 1. Approve proposed amendments to the Streets and Traffic and Ticketing Bylaws that would permit the use of skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates and non-motorized scooters on all City streets, require skateboarders and users of other similar modes of transportation to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists, and eliminate associated impound provisions, effective November 01, 2015.
 2. Endorse a communication program to increase public understanding on how skateboarders can operate on City streets.
 3. Write a letter to the Province of B.C. advocating for a provincial requirement setting appropriate standards within the Motor Vehicle Act for helmets for skateboarding, similar to how the helmet requirement for cyclists is regulated.

