



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the March 26, 2015 Meeting

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** March 19, 2015
From: Dwayne Kalynchuk, Director
Engineering and Public Works
Subject: Skateboarding in the Downtown Core – Public Engagement Results

Executive Summary

In 2014, Council directed staff report on the impacts of allowing skateboards on downtown streets. Council directed the report address confiscation of skateboards, including implications of using the BC Offence Act for guidance. On November 27, 2014, Council passed the following motion:

- 1) *That Council direct staff to provide a formal opportunity for broader public feedback on the following proposed amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw:*
 - a) *Removing the current prohibition against the use of skateboards and other human powered devices on roadways within the downtown core and the 2300 block Trent Street. The current prohibition against the use of bicycles, skateboards and other human powered devices on sidewalks throughout the city would remain in place.*
 - b) *Requiring users of skateboards and other human powered devices travelling on city streets to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists, and*
 - c) *Eliminating impound provisions specific to skateboards or other human-powered device.*
- 2) *That staff report back to Council in January 2015 with public feedback and proposed changes to the bylaw.*

An online survey was used to solicit broader public feedback on the proposal to allow skateboarding on downtown streets. The City promoted public participation in the survey on the City website and through social media, and reached out to local skateboarding shops and the local skateboarding advocate who had generated an earlier petition on this topic, to ensure the skateboarding community was involved in the decision-making process. Feedback was collected between November 26 and December 31, 2014.

In early 2015 staff reviewed and evaluated the feedback received to determine the level of support or opposition to the proposed changes. A full summary of the engagement is attached.

There were 275 respondents, including people who drive, take public transit, bike, walk, and ride skateboards. Most respondents lived in Victoria, were between 30 and 50 years old, and used a car or public transit as their primary mode of transportation. The majority of respondents were supportive of the proposed changes. The results also suggested the non-skateboarding public is generally supportive of allowing skateboarding on downtown streets, as there were more non-skateboarders than skateboarders who participated in the survey.

The majority of respondents also supported the need for safety regulations, such as ensuring anyone skateboarding in the downtown core is visible to drivers and follows the rules of the road.

The previous staff report from October 2014 is attached for information.

If bylaw changes are implemented, a communications program will be developed to increase public understanding around how skateboarders can operate in the downtown core. Staff will report back to Council in May 2015 in conjunction with the proposed bylaw amendments.

Recommendation:

1. That Council direct staff to prepare the following proposed amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw:
 - a) Remove the current prohibition against the use of skateboards and other human powered devices on roadways within the downtown core and the 2300 block Trent Street. The current prohibition against the use of bicycles, skateboards and other human powered devices on sidewalks throughout the city would remain in place.
 - b) Require users of skateboards and other human powered devices travelling on city streets to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists, and
 - c) Eliminate impound provisions specific to skateboards or other human-powered device.
2. That Council direct staff to develop a communications program to increase public understanding around how skateboarders can operate in the downtown core, and report back to Council in May 2015, in conjunction with the proposed Streets and Traffic Bylaw amendments.

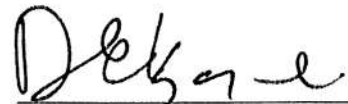
Respectfully submitted,



Brad Dellebuur,
Acting Assistant Director
Transportation and Parking
Services



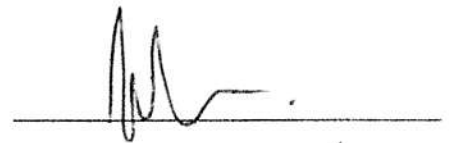
Katie Hamilton
Director
Citizen Engagement and
Strategic Planning



Dwayne Kalynchuk, P.Eng.
Director
Engineering and Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:


March 20, 2015

Engagement Summary Report

Skateboarding in the Downtown Core

November 26, 2014 – December 31, 2014

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Executive Summary

Recognizing the growing number of people that use skateboards as a mode of transportation, the City completed a review of the impacts around permitting skateboards in the downtown core.

Currently, skateboard use is not permitted on downtown streets or sidewalks. These restrictions have been in place since the 1990's and in the past individuals breaking these bylaws could have their skateboards impounded.

The City of Victoria is considering permitting skateboard use on downtown streets to remove barriers to skateboarding and to increase the safety of pedestrians on sidewalks. Feedback from the public was sought on the following proposed changes:

- Permitting skateboards on downtown streets, while maintaining the bylaw that cyclists and skateboarders are not allowed on city sidewalks
- Requiring skateboarders travelling on city streets to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists

An online survey was used to solicit feedback from individuals that would be affected by the proposed changes by allowing skateboarding in the downtown core.

The City received 275 surveys from the community including drivers, public transit users, cyclists, skateboarders and pedestrians. The majority of respondents live in Victoria, were between 30 and 50 years old and use a car or public transit as their primary mode of transportation. Given the lower percentage of skateboarders responding to the survey versus the higher number of supportive comments, the survey results suggest the non-skateboarding public is supportive of allowing skateboarding in the downtown core.

Much of the support was not without expressing a need for regulation and safety, such as ensuring anyone travelling in the downtown core is visible to drivers and following the rules of the road. Most of the respondents that were in favour of removing the current bylaw expressed that it was discriminatory and antiquated and that it was time for a change.

A summary of the survey's responses, as well as the complete survey including all comments, can be found at the end of this report.

Part 1: Introduction, Engagement Objectives and Process Design

Introduction:

The City of Victoria is considering permitting skateboard use on downtown streets to remove barriers to skateboarding and to increase the safety of pedestrians on sidewalks. Allowing skateboards downtown supports youth and recognizes skateboarding as a legitimate form of transportation.

Currently, bicycles and skateboards are not permitted on sidewalks anywhere in Victoria, but unlike bicycles, skateboards are also not permitted on streets within the downtown core. Skateboarding is currently permitted on City streets outside the downtown core.

An online survey was used to solicit feedback from the community on permitting skateboard use on downtown streets. The feedback received will be used to help inform City Council as they consider the proposed bylaw changes in 2015.

Engagement Objectives:

The goals of the engaging with the community were to determine the public's opinion on:

- Removing the current restriction against the use of skateboards on downtown streets, while maintaining the bylaw that cyclists and skateboarders are not allowed on city sidewalks
- Requiring skateboarders travelling on city streets to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists

Process Design:

Community feedback was collected through an online survey hosted on HaveYourSayVictoria.com. The City promoted participation in the survey on their website and through social media.

The skateboarding community was engaged by reaching out to local skateboarding shops including Sitka, Artavi and One Six, along with reaching out to a skateboarding activist in order to ensure the skateboarding community had their say. The target groups for the non-skateboarding audiences included the Downtown Victoria Business Association, the Victoria Youth Council, the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, the Victoria Taxi Association, and the Downtown Residents Association.

Part 2: Communications Tools

The following communications tools were used to create awareness and drive participants towards the online survey and this engagement opportunity:

- Media Release
- Social media
- Website information (Latest News, Have Your Say)
- Staff consultation with community groups
- Direct email invites to target audiences encouraging their participation in the online survey

Part 3: Engagement Channels

Phase 1:

The City of Victoria did a small preliminary outreach to targeted community groups. Staff consulted with the Victoria Police Department (VicPD), and also asked for feedback from the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) and the Downtown Residents Association (DRA). Staff also met with a skateboard advocate who has presented previously to Council on this issue.

Copies of written feedback received from members of the DVBA and the DRA Board were submitted while correspondence and presentations to Council regarding skateboarding downtown and feedback previously received during Official Community Plan consultations were also reviewed. Council then directed staff to provide a formal opportunity for broader public feedback on the following proposed amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw.

Phase 2:

The online survey was posted on November 26, 2014 and ran until to December 31, 2014.

Part 4: Next Steps

Council to review all feedback from the public collected via the online survey compiled as they consider permitting skateboard use on downtown streets to remove barriers to skateboarding downtown and to increase the safety of pedestrians on sidewalks.

If the current bylaw is amended by Council, possible next steps for the City could be:

- Engage the public about what rules skateboarders should have to follow when riding on downtown streets
- Follow staff recommendations and revise bylaw to allow skateboarding in the downtown core and create a public education campaign aimed at informing the public about the new bylaw

If the current bylaw is not amended by Council, possible next steps for the City could be:

- Engage the public further on the proposed changes
- Leave the current bylaw as it stands and publically communicate this decision

Part 5: Engagement Data – What We Heard

The online survey was made up of six questions aimed at engaging the public that live in Victoria, commute within or through Victoria in some form and those who visit Victoria for work or pleasure.

Given the complexity around the subject, the questions were open-ended rather than a closed-ended 'yes' or 'no' question. Open-ended questions were posed in order to gain a broader perspective into the public's support or concern on the topic. Overall, comments were generally supportive outnumbered those that were against allowing skateboarding in Victoria.

There were 275 people that provided responses through the online survey.

What we heard:

Question 1: Where do you live?

- 78.5% lived in Victoria
- 17.1% lived outside Victoria
- 4.4% identified living in the category "other"

Question 2: What is your age?

- 1.8% 11 – 17 years old
- 18.5% 18 – 30 years old
- 48.4% 30 – 50 years old
- 31.3% 50 + years old

Question 3: What is your primary mode of transportation through the downtown core of Victoria?

- 42.9% vehicle or public transportation
- 35.6% on foot
- 11.6% bicycle
- 6.9% skateboard
- 2.9% other

Questions 4 – 6

Given the complexity around the subject, rather than ask a 'yes' or 'no' question regarding support for allowing skateboarding in the downtown core, the following three open-ended questions were posed in order to gain a broader perspective into the public's support or concern on the topic.

Given the varying responses, the numbers below are represented in the following manner:

- Supportive – the comments were in complete support of the bylaw being removed or felt this would be a positive change to make regarding skateboarding in the downtown core

- Not supportive – the comments supported the current bylaw and specifically made reference to not allowing skateboards in the downtown core
- Neutral – the answer had both supportive and not supportive comments, asked a question within the comment, or offered comments that were not relevant to the question being asked

Question 4: Do you have any comments or concerns around the use of skateboards on downtown streets?

Supportive – 135

Common themes:

- The current bylaw is outdated, discriminates against a particular group, and change is needed
- Any type of “green transportation” should be encouraged
- Skateboarding is a viable form of transportation

Not supportive – 82

Common themes:

- Streets already crowded with cars, buses and cyclists and adding skateboarders will cause accidents, injuries or worse
- They are not visible enough and don’t have any rules to follow so they would be an ongoing concern for drivers and pedestrians
- There is nothing wrong with the current bylaw and it should not be changed

Neutral – 57

Common themes:

*Note: common themes in the neutral generally did not provide a direct answer to the question asked or had both for and against comments

- Skateboards should not be allowed on sidewalks
- Concern for youth riding skateboards
- Concern for pedestrian/skateboarder conflicts

Question 5: Do you have any comments or concerns around skateboarders complying with the same rules as cyclists?

Supportive – 139

Common themes:

- Yes, if they are going to share the road they should follow the same rules as drivers and cyclists
- They should have to wear helmets and reflective clothing to ensure they are visible to drivers and cyclists
- The safety of everyone using the roads is very important

Not supportive – 60

Common themes:

- They are far different modes of transportation and should not be categorized the same
- Skateboards do not have lights, brakes, or any of the other control devices as a bike and also cannot travel at the same speed as a bike
- Would make bike lanes and roads too crowded

Neutral – 75

*Note: common themes in the neutral generally did not provide a direct answer to the question asked or had both for and against comments

- Cyclists do not follow the rules of the road and skateboarders would not either
- Rules for cyclists need to be enforced in order to have other rules of the road enforced
- Separate areas for bikes and skateboards are needed, much like many European cities

Question 6: Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Supportive – 68

Common themes:

- Time for a change
- Old rule and alternate modes of transportation should be encouraged
- Pilot program

Not supportive – 45

Common themes:

- It won't work – too much going on along downtown streets
- Worry from drivers that they might injure a skateboarder

Neutral – 84

*Note: common themes in the neutral generally did not provide a direct answer to the question asked or had both for and against comments

- Enforcement of rules important

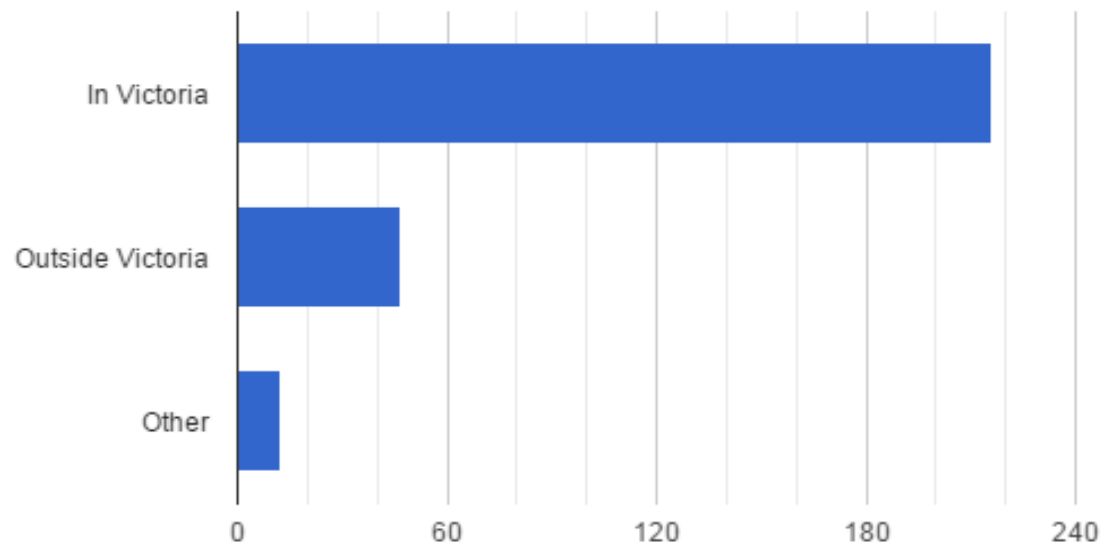
- Helmets and reflective clothes are needed if skateboards allowed on roads

Appendix A:

Skateboarding in the Downtown Core Survey Report

Skateboarding in the Downtown Core Survey Report

Q1 Where do you live?



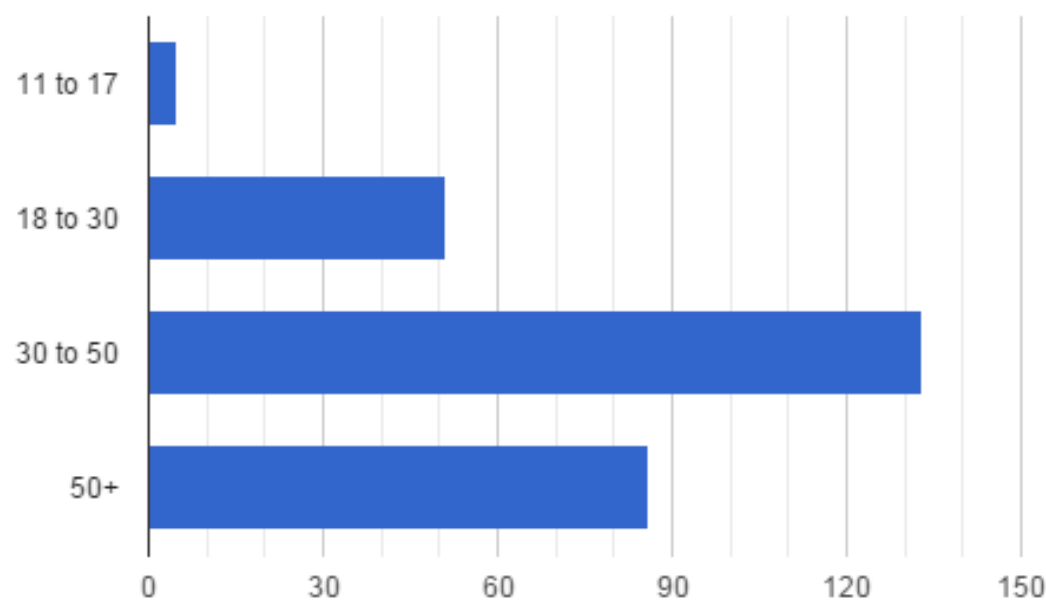
Total Respondents: 275

Other:

Esquimalt
mill bay
Oak Bay
Saanich
Saanich
Saanich
Saanich

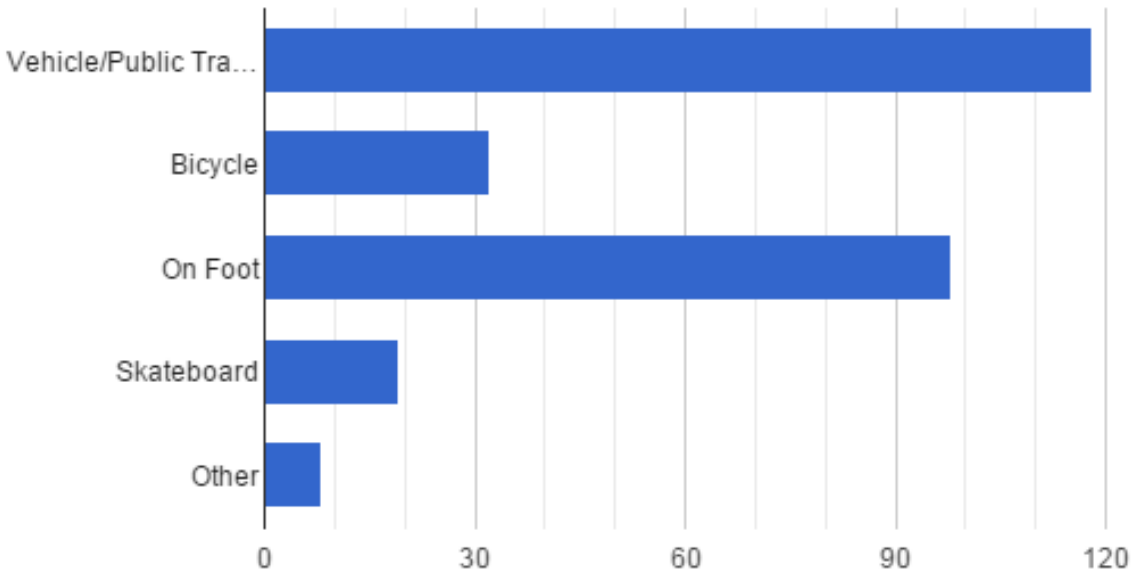
saanich
Saanich
Sooke
Vancouver, born and raised in vic

Q2 What is your age?



Total Respondents: 275

Q3 What is your primary mode of transportation throughout the downtown core of Victoria?



Total Respondents: 275

Other:

Bicycle and Skateboard
Longboard
Scooter
scooter
Vehicle AND skateboard
walk, skateboard, bike, drive
wheelchair

Q4 Do you have any comments or concerns around the use of skateboards on downtown streets?

Total Respondents: 275

When they are passing on the little bike lane(a boarder and cyclist)
#1 there is an extremely small virtually non existent # of people who actually use a skateboard as their primary source of transportation on a daily basis. A few more when the spirit moves them or the weather is conducive. We should not prejudice the safety of the vast majority for the benefit of so few.
1- they still are on the sidewalks and I've been nearly run over. 2- if they are on the street, and they hit a car (I've witnessed one last year), they have NO insurance to fix the damages. And it shouldn't be up to the driver if the boarder hits the car. 3- I've seen both cyclists and skateboarders run red lights. We need to make them more accountable for them breaking the law.
About time
Old bylaw was wrong if not illegal
against it
All for it. Active transportation should be encouraged not discouraged.
All the people in the photos are not wearing helmets. If they are going to be treated like cyclists they should HAVE TO wear a helmet.
Allow them the use of the bike lanes or provide w secondary slow lane for them and slower bikes.
allow use of skateboards downtown
Any and all forms of exercise should be encouraged as long as it doesn't pose a danger to pedestrians. Having skateboarders use bike lanes would be a lot better than using sidewalks.
Are they going to have to wear lights back and front at night?

Cars and skateboarders don't mix. There will be casualties.

Are they going to wear helmets by law? Also, skateboarders aren't the type to just stay on the sidewalk. They like to bounce around unpredictable. It's bad enough I have to deal with pedestrians not paying attention thinking the laws don't apply to them, bikes are the same in which nobody follows the rules of the road, and then add another form of transportation that are unpredictable is just a crazy idea.

As a mom of 12 year old boys, I see the benefits of skateboarding as a mode of transportation as it keeps them active and fit. We should not restrict opportunities for anyone to keep active, regardless of age. I think skateboarding should be allowed everywhere, downtown included.

As long as there is good monitoring to ensure the rules of the road are followed, I don't have any concerns.

At the moment the bylaw gives a degree of control. The removal of the bylaw removes that control and will increase the pedestrian vehicle skateboards negative contacts.

Awareness of drivers.

Being hit at anything over walking pace especially by a sharp blunt object at ankle level is medically dangerous. And then then the culprit can just skate away without consequences.

Better on the streets than on sidewalks

Bikes and skateboards are dangerous to walkers and drivers. Both are often on sidewalks . I was nearly knocked over by one on a sidewalk.

Boarders can be difficult to see; they don't wear any protective gear; many drivers would not be able to manoeuvre around them safely. are bicycles impounded presently if a cyclist disobeys the rules of the road? Haven't seen it yet! The police don't have the personnel to cope with present issues within the downtown core: why add skate- or long-boarding to the present burden?

Boards are a quick, efficient way for people to get to work. Drivers in Victoria must watch for all others on the road, is bicyclists, scooters, motorcycles & boarders.

Bus drivers will have to pay more attention when pulling over.

Concerned with skateboarders being reckless, weaving in and out of cars, buses.

Current bylaws are just fine. There should be NO skateboarding on downtown streets EVER

Do no permit skateboards in the downtown core - That's just an accident waiting to happen, if you

make them follow the same rules as cyclist. And if you allow them on the sidewalks, it would be a nuisance.

don't want them on the sidewalks

Downtown driving is busy enough as we share the narrow roads with buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

Downtown sidewalks are not the places for skateboards and

Cycles.

The residents with walkers,

And people walking on the sidewalks don't want to be looking out for people on skateboards, and tourist would

Not bother to go down town.

Downtown traffic is already difficult enough as it is (e.g. rush hour, homeless people walking wherever they want, whenever they want, etc.). Skateboarders in bike lanes will only complicate things more.

Enforce the by-law to STOP cyclists and skateboarders from using the SIDEWALKS!

For traffic issues. I bus everywhere and find that many drivers are impatient with cyclists as it is. I would be worried about any potential injuries this could result in.

From a safety perspective, I would rather see the use of skateboards permitted on sidewalks. My fear is skateboarders will utilize an entire street lane which in mind is unsafe - particularly at night.

Give back the streets to the skateboarders, let us move on and develop a better relationship with such a large, diverse group of individuals.

Go green!

GO green! Allow skaters to skate

Great idea to encourage active transportation! Can we pedestrianize Government St next please? Or perhaps a pilot project....

Having walked to/from work and through d/t for Victoria, I can speak of multiple times where cyclists have endangered my safety by their sidewalk riding.

Given that propensity, I would argue they feel they have immunity from never present traffic police

and/or bylaw enforcement officers.

If we can clean up the cyclist problem first, then and only then should boarders be allowed. If they are allowed, they should have to adhere to the same rules as cyclists (with aforementioned enforcement) which includes helmets.

If freewheeling is permitted, accidents are sure to follow and won't be the boarder hurt, it will be a pedestrian

hazardous to riders and pedestrians. Lack of courtesy

Helmets should be mandatory

Helmets?

Human powered transportation ft!

I 100% support skateboarding in our city, structuring the bylaws to be the same as cyclists and holding skateboarders accountable seems more realistic than treating them like criminals for their choice of transportation!!!

I agree with allowing skateboarders on streets, have a concern about safety - need more dedicated bike lanes to reduce conflict with traffic - on more streets, Douglas Street bike lanes not safe with buses, even worse for skateboarders.

I am concerned about skateboards impeding traffic and endangering themselves and others if allowed on downtown streets.

I am concerned that the city does not do enough to provide skateboard facilities throughout the city. I notice that a playground and basketball hoop are installed in every park, but a skateboard facility is never considered due to the NIMBY mentality that the City typically falls victim to. A simple skateboard or bmx facility (Bench or ramp \$500-1000 each) should be considered part of every park. It is great exercise and teaches valuable life lessons.

I am fine as long as they are not on sidewalks

I am in agreement that they be permitted on downtown streets provided that they follow the rules of the road and that those rules are enforced. They should not be permitted on sidewalks under any circumstances.

I am strongly against allowing skateboarding on the streets and sidewalks of Victoria.

This is a toy. It is NOT a form of transportation.

Why is this even a question? Skateboards belong in skateboard parks. They are meant for recreation and the people who tend to use them will refuse to be regulated. Any efforts toward changing that will cost a fortune and the skateboarders will not generally comply in the end anyway so you are going down a "no win" road.

They are dangerous and the user is generally out of control. Unlike a car the user does not have any safety equipment on. These wheeled toys don't have brakes, for example. So how can this ever be a safe form of transportation?!

There are far too many people on foot on the sidewalks in Victoria, especially seniors and dogs.

The current bylaw that prohibits skateboards anywhere on the streets and sidewalks of Victoria should be MORE strongly enforced.

I believe allowing skateboards on downtown streets is not logical. Transit drivers, taxi drivers, commercial truck drivers, private vehicle drivers, motor scooter and motorcycle operators as well as bicycle operators provide more than sufficient volume for our roadways. Our attention levels do not need further dilution by adding skateboards to the mix.

I believe that permitting skateboards on downtown street will be a mistake. We currently have issues with cars & pedestrians, a skateboarder moves faster than a pedestrian, and a driver may have checked for pedestrians, looked the other direction, and proceeded, only to run into/run over a skateboarder.

I believe that Victoria needs to lighten up. A lot of skateboarders are adults with families, careers.... Why is it such an issue? Cyclists are seeming to take over the streets, this is transportation. So is skateboarding. Time to lose the bad rap that come with this recreation and get with the times. It should not be illegal in anyway.

I can't believe this is even being considered. I can envision skateboarders entering the roadway from between parked cars and causing moving vehicles to either hit them or swerve into other moving or parked vehicles.

I disagree with removing the current restriction against the use of skateboards on downtown streets. I think skateboards on already crowded downtown streets is a safety hazard for motorists, pedestrians as well as skateboarders. Skateboards travel quickly making them difficult for motorists and pedestrians to see.

I do not feel it safe to have skateboards on the roads. They are not as stable as bikes. When a boarder has trouble, the only way to stop momentum is to flail and run/hop in the same direction. As a motorist, I have had to implement emergency avoidance measures to prevent major accidents.

I do not skateboard. These bylaws in my opinion do not make any practical sense, the promotion of alternate modes of transportation in my mind are even more important due to the fact that I am unable to contribute to the solution. I drive as a default but would like to see the downtown core as a cleaner car-minimum environment. If a skateboard takes a car off the road it is welcomed.

I do not think having skateboarders on busy roads in the downtown core is a wise idea. There are quite a few large vehicles coming and going in the core at all hours of the business day. Navigating bikes is quite difficult, especially when they are weaving in and out of traffic and splitting the lanes. Skateboards have quite small wheels that do not react well to rocks and road debris.

I do not think skateboarders should be allowed on sidewalks. They could be allowed to use designated bike lanes if the lanes were safe for cyclists which in the downtown core they aren't. The city's recent survey revealed this was a major concern. Unfortunately, the bike lanes are not clearly marked. Green colored bike lanes should be implemented throughout the city.

I feel that people will always skateboard as a means of transportation. The numbers are steadily growing too. Whether it's a completely allowing people to do it, or simply removing the ability to confiscate property, I am a proponent of some sort of rule change.

i feel that skateboarding is a form of transportation, and is no different then walking or biking.

I feel that the downtown area of Victoria is already congested and busy. As I driver in the downtown area, it is hard enough to deal with bicycles, buses, pedestrians, lights, one way streets and parking. You add skateboarders into the mix and you are just adding another obstacle in an area that is chaos in the first place.

I feel they are a healthy, environmentally friendly mode of transport and should be allowed.

i feel they should fully be allowed, i ride a longboard a lot, and use it as a great means of transportation.

I find it to be an inexpensive, eco-friendly mode of transportation.

I have no concerns about skateboards in the downtown core. They are a method of transportation just like any other and a source of fun, community, and skill development for young and old who ride.

I have no issue with Skateboards being used for transportation. If they are doing tricks on steps or railings around the general public, then it becomes more dangerous and needs to be regulated.

I have no problem with skateboarders using downtown streets.

I have peripheral vision issues and I find it difficult to avoid skateboarders on the sidewalk.

I highly encourage it!

I just want to make sure they are wearing helmets! My friends son died earlier this year because he didn't have one on.

I see and hear the argument against skateboarding in the core that skateboards don't have a braking mechanism like bicycles. To those people I would like to say that, as a skateboarder, I would not feel safe and comfortable riding through the core, on the streets (or sidewalks for that matter), if I did not have complete confidence in my ability to safely operate my board in a careful and controlled manner.

I see skateboarders on downtown sidewalks all the time. They are a menace to pedestrians but the skateboarders are young and are unaware of the rules and also don't care

I still believe that people should be disciplined for dangerous behaviour regardless of what method of transportation used but look forward to these restrictions being lifted.

I support the use of skateboards on the roads but there must be limits. No trick riding, no out of control speeds. How that would play out would need to be determined.

The current law in place is completely ridiculous. Many skateboarders use skateboarding as their primary, and may I say environmentally conscious, mode of transportation. By instilling the current law, the City of Victoria leaves the impression that they don't want Victorians to be environmentally conscious, and physically active. Further, many of the young people of Victoria who skateboard use skateboarding as a healthy physical outlet. It is not fair for young people to be frowned down upon because of a healthy decision that they are making. With limited skate parks to begin with it is sad to see that their choices are being further diminished. As a Child and Youth Care practitioner, I would MUCH rather see youth, young adults, and whoever else making a healthy, social and environmentally conscious decision to skateboard. In my opinion, the current law is completely insane, especially as we are known as the bike capital of the country.. the only difference is that skateboards get a bad rep.

I think allowing skateboarding downtown is a fantastic idea!

I think allowing skateboards on downtown streets will create more accidents, many fatalities & could cause the city to have lawsuits on their hands.

I think ANY wheeled devices for human movement on City streets should be required to observe the same rules. It is dangerous that bicycles are a vehicle and have permitted lanes to follow while on city streets but when they come to a stop light adopt the rule of a pedestrian and compete with them for crossing the crosswalk so that they can use the pedestrian sign to make a "turn" which would not be permitted by a vehicle using the same street. They go faster than pedestrians and often frighten elderly

people. I have no problem with skateboards on streets providing they stay there and don't try to compete with "pedestrians" lanes (sidewalks and crosswalks.)

I think it is a bad decision to allow skateboards. The sidewalks are already congested and to add skateboards to the mix just makes the situation worse.

I think it is great to get them off the sidewalks

I think it will become very dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians crossing the streets, Skateboarders are into speed, not safety.

I think it would be very dangerous for the skateboarders. There is barely room for two cars to pass as it is on most streets downtown without having to dodge skateboarders, also. Unless the city is prepared to make bike/skate lanes in the citycore that do not disappear when there is no room for them. Bikes don't disappear, they just drive into traffic. Skateboarders are normally younger than bikers so we would be risking much more young peoples lives. Is it worth it. Proper bike lanes need to be made in the city probably at the expense of parking along roads. There is just not room for it all. Maybe we need more one way streets with one lane designated for bikes and skateboarders. Certainly some alternative needs to be considered other than just letting skateboarders ride on the roads as they presently are.

I think it's a good idea

I think its a good idea.

I think it's a great idea as fining and taking away skateboards was never a good idea to begin with. Victoria is well known for skateboarding so it should be a normal and accepted thing to see on the streets.

I think skateboarding should be supported, but education is needed. Skateboard movements are unpredictable and travel at different speeds than bikes. Maybe a pilot program is needed to test this idea.

I think skateboards encourage (primarily) young people to be physically active, and as such they should be allowed and encouraged to do so. I also believe they should be considered 'personal vehicles', like bicycles and scooters and should GENERALLY follow the same rules as bikes. See below.

I think skateboards should be allowed downtown.

I think that skateboards should absolutely be aloud downtown. As long as they wear helmets and or other protective gear. And they are safe and respectful of pedestrians, bicycles, cars and any other

modes of transportation including other skateboarders.

I think that skateboards would need to take appropriate precautions if they were skateboarding at night. E.g. lights, or bright vests.

I think they should be able to ride on the streets.

I think they should be permitted on the roads, trying to be a green city yet discouraging green transportation is hypocritical.

I think they should have to wear helmets like bicyclists.

I think they're fine! Why not allow them?

I travel to victoria often and Skateboarding is a great way to get around. For the most part the streets are relatively flat, so stopping quickly has never been a problem.

i would like to be able to skateboard downtown as transportation

I would like to see all skate boarders off of all of the Victoria city streets because a lot of them do not yeald to pedestrians on the sidewalks,and especially the elderly people that have mobility walking problems. Get them off the siode walks,and have them wear helmets on a bicycle lane.

I would like to see them comply to the same rules as cyclists with the exception that between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am they are allowed to use the sidewalks for their own protection.

I'd like to see more people making use of green transportation. It shows that we care about the Earth.

If everyone has their space and the "rules of the road" are inclusive and understood, then I have no concerns whatever. I think skateboarders often have more situational awareness that cyclists and drivers due to being more exposed while moving quickly - so if integrated, they likely would be the least of the problems.

If skateboarders and bikers are sharing a lane, that could cause problems. Bikers are much faster and may feel the need to go around which brings them into vehicle traffic and puts them and the driver now at more serious risk.

If skateboarders are allowed the use if roads in a similar manner to bikes then it will be safer for pedestrians and generally better for Victorians.

If skateboarders on the streets going to be congesting the already heavily congested streets within downtown core. If they are on the sidewalks how will this affect the many locals and tourists that walk

throughout the downtown core. If the Skateboards are within the bike lanes - I am sure that cyclists will not wish to share their lanes as potential for accidents to occur.

If they are licensed, have brakes, horns, insurance, are properly lit at night and obey the rules of the road. I have no problem.

If they were used on the streets, there would be no detection to change the lights. The skateboarder would need to go on the sidewalk anyways to push the button.

If this ridiculous change is actually implemented, then skateboarders -- and cyclists, too, for that matter -- should be compelled to display some kind of license and carry public liability insurance.

I'm not a fan of the idea. Skateboards do not have brakes, and as a cyclist pose a danger.

In bike lanes with helmets

Insane to add skateboards to the already crowded streets. Skateboarders speed and have little regard for pedestrians. We already have motor scooters taking up lots of space and causing problems with people trying to walk down streets and even waiting at bus stops. No boards within downtown core!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Allow them and I will shop only at the malls.

It doesn't seem very safe. There are enough problems with cyclists on the roads when its busy I don't think drivers need to worry about another thing on the roads that could interfere with safe driving. Add the amount of busses that have to pull over t the stops constantly I fear someone will be seriously injured.

it is a great idea

It is discrimination not to allow skateboards as a form of transportation through the downtown core. I agree that skateboards should be allowed on the roads just as bicycles are.

It should be allowed

It should be allowed on both sidewalks and streets (same rules as bicycle). Only in cases of actual problem behavior on the sidewalks should this become a bylaw offence ...

It should be allowed the same as bicycles are.

It should be allowed. Most of these skateboarders have better control over their skateboards than we do over our feet.

It would be great to limit the use to daylight hours only. We're in a condo and the sound of skateboards

pounding the sidewalks often wakes us in the middle of the night to the point where we can't leave our windows open over night.

It would be madness especially at night

No reflective clothing. No lights. Often they wear dark clothing. Oncoming headlights obscure clear vision. Absolutely NO

Its a bad idea because bicycles move faster than skateboards - no serious commuter would ever use a skateboard, they are not faster or more efficient than a bike or public transport

It's almost 2015 and I still refuse to bring my family to your city as you frown upon green transport and hassle kids and grown men for using a hunk of wood for transportation

Take a good look at your policy and another at the overt drug issues your city has I'm not an educated man but I do see that the bylaw is silly and was made by people whom are probably dead

Its ok! Why not!

It's ridiculous to deny someone their form of transportation

It's shocking that this bylaw has been on the books so long. How on earth it's actually legal for a city to implement a policy to take property from someone is mind-boggling.

It's stupid it was banned in the first place

I've almost been run over by skateboarders on the sidewalk as a pedestrian. On the bus I have had a skateboard fall on my leg on the bus and rip it open. I do not think the laws should be changed. Then I would have even more changes of being struck as I walk across the street. Skateboards should not be allowed downtown and, and yes, they should be confiscated.

keep the bylaw as it is. They have not respect for pedestrians. Keep impounding boards if they don't comply.

Keep them off the sidewalks. They go zooming westbound on 700 block of Johnson and just about took out the lady walking in front of me when she shifted direction. They scare the crap out of people because once beside you they sound like a rocket going by. Enforce the bylaws!

Keep them out of traffic

legitimate form of transportation..

Let them ride
let them skate
let them skate! remove the antiquated bylaw and let's continue to build the vibrancy of downtown through inclusion and variety
Love the idea. Bring back skateboards. They are a way of transportation. But maybe make them wear helpmates too. And lights if at night. Same as bikes!
<p>mine would be. whats the real problem with skateboards. i ride skateboards, longboards and ride my bmx downtown and cops are alway stopping me and sometimes or no real reason.</p> <p>but to be honest seeing this on public feed saying this is going on. here is something better. why not go out to the public or set a date and get a whole bunch of people showing up listening to what you have to say and others and work out the problem and not just causing a bigger problem.</p> <p>doing this will cause the city more problems as skateboards will get more annoyed and it will make things worse. so how about just leave them skateboard around..if they fall they fall but keep in mind. they are very skilled at doing what they are doing. and if the fall mistakes happen. give them a break</p> <p>my idea.. hold a big meeting and hear what people really have to say</p>
More concern for fast skateboarders maneuvering around elderly people.
Most do not consider safety enough. I'm concerned about the effect on the skater if they are hit, and the person who hits them.
Most skateboarders on the sidewalk travel at a considerate and responsible speed. They are mindful of others on the sidewalk and are attentive to the flow of 'traffic' and adjust accordingly. However, there are those few who are reckless. Those few scare and startle others on the sidewalk and launch themselves into the street on crosswalks without regard for others (pedestrians or drivers).
My concerns are teenagers form 13-19 and kids under age of 12 have been racing around Victoria sidewalks think they own the sidewalk.
n/a
No
No

No
No
no
no
No amount of signage or rules will make the skateboarders change their ways. They do not follow the rules now about staying off the sidewalks. Downtown Victoria streets are not safe for the elderly in the vicinity of the skateboarders. They will not stick with the bike paths, they will see proposed changes as an opportunity to wander back to the sidewalks. Just like the cyclists do now - they are constantly on walking paths even though they are clearly marked for no bicycles.
No concerns
No concerns with skateboards on downtown streets, should be the same rules as cycling.
No concerns, majority of people dislike skateboarding for the noise. Not skating itself.
No concerns, skateboarding promotes exercise and green transportation.
No concerns. The responsibility of the skateboard user is what should be regulated, rather than skateboarding in general. Reckless skateboarding should be ticketed, but skateboarding in general is not. I've personally been hit only by disabled people on electric wheelchairs, rather than skateboards.
no issues whatsoever. We should encourage green forms of transportation
No more than any other mode, and much less concern than I have around the behaviour of drivers.
no sidewalks. use bike lanes in core when it makes sense. certain streets too busy. helmets a good idea. lights at night too.
no skateboards on side walks
No to skateboarding on the street. these individuals are a menace to traffic and they zip from street to sidewalk. and they do not obey traffic signals or yields etc.
No, I think it should be legal.
No, I think it's a great idea

no, I think that the skateboarding red zone is antiquated and does not reflect the needs of the demographic who now live and work downtown

No. Let them ride.

Noisy and dangerous

None - cities should take a more progressive additude towards skateboarding in an uburban environment.

None at all. Everyone should be allowed to get from point A - B regardless of how they do.

none what so ever

Nope, I think they should be allowed to skateboard as they please

Nope. Few things make me angrier than longboarders carving turns on the street with no helmet, no brakes, and no sense. Worse thing to drive near. One false move by them and I'm wearing skater all over my windscreen and going counselling for the next year.

Nope. I think we should do it. Green rules.

Not on any sidewalks!! Use the bike lanes and obey rules like all cyclists must. It is a viable transportation alternative but NOT on sidewalks where pedestrians will not have time to avoid collisions.

Not really. Bikes are far more of a hazard to pedestrians.

Not safe. It's a slippery slope. You allow it and there will be more than what was intended. I don't see how they can mix with cars or pedestrians downtown. It's crazy

Of course they should be allowed. It was always pointless and discriminatory that skateboarding was not allowed.

one of the main places i have to pass is centennial square, the security is very poor. I see them drinking out of flasks and kicking out skateboarders when there is illegal drug deals going out in plane sight

Only that it is difficult for skateboarders to travel as quickly as bicycles. Animosity between the groups will flare up if skateboarders use bike lanes.

Only that they aren't allowed.

Perhaps helmets should be enforced as well as reflectors in the evening to aim to prevent accidents and serious injuries.

Police should stop wasting time dealing with skateboards

Population has increased in size...sidewalks have Not!

Primary concern is for the safety of pedestrians on sidewalks and the unpredictability and erratic use of skateboards in regular traffic.

really would like to see a path for bikes and skateboards to share. so close the streets to cars please.

Remove the Red zone.

riders should wear helmets, like cyclists.

roads are for cars buses trucks and bicycles..... they are not for skateboards or other forms of moving traffic that have little or no protection from a fast moving 1 or 2 tons or more of solid moving forms of vehicles

Same rules as cyclists should apply. Skateboarding is a valid, inexpensive mode of transportation.

Seems dangerous to have skateboards on the street, especially when most are young and are less likely to know the road rules.

Should be allowed in bicycle lanes and on most downtown roads but should be banned from major car routes - johnson, pandora, cook, bay etc

should be legal everywhere even sidewalks just like it is in vancouver.

should be same as bicycles

Should not be allowed. They are a menace and a hazard. Make them walk like everybody else

Sidewalks are called that for a reason. Older people some of whom cannot hear that well cannot get out of the way of skateboards. The majority of people using skateboards are young people and kids who don't have any respect for walkers and are quite capable of walking on the sidewalks if they can skateboard.

Skateboarders along with bikes should have right of way

Skateboarders are generally slower than cyclists and less inclined to follow the MVA, as a skateboard is

not considered a vehicle.

Skateboarders have as much control, and are as engaged, if not moreso, than cyclists. The vast majority have the skills and the physical capacity to skateboard safely and should have the right to use their boards as legitimate modes of transportation.

Skateboarders should be using the bicycle lanes on Downtown streets and banned 100% from riding on the sidewalks.

Skateboarders, like those riding bikes, have little protection from cars if they are hit. They carry no insurance so if they suddenly pop out in front of a car and are hit it's a strong chance of serious or deadly injury which the person in the car must deal with. Stronger laws must be passed requiring them to follow the rules of the road, protective gear and liabilities. I would rather they be on the sidewalk.

skateboarding in bike lanes should be legal

Skateboarding in traffic is an idiotic idea.

skateboarding is a great form of transportation and recreational activity.

Skateboarding is a lifestyle that is now time to be embraced by the city of Victoria. Skateboarding has been accepted as a part of the culture in many parts of the world

Skateboarding is not a crime.

Skateboarding should not be allowed on the streets. As I have to drive for work and in the downtown core, I find it is hard enough watching for bicycles and pedestrian that do not obey traffic and street signs. Add to this dark clothing, night time & raining.

skateboards are a mode of transportation and skateboarders should not be treated poorly for having their skateboards downtown.

Skateboards are a safe, environmentally conscious, fun means of transportation, and should not be seen as a menace to our streets, or an unsafe way to get around.

Skateboards are not transportation. They should not be allowed on either sidewalks or roads. They are a recreational toy that should be limited to designated skate parks and away from pedestrians and motorists.

Skateboards are perfect for travelling in the city, and take up even less space than a bicycle. They are also significantly cheaper, making them more accessible.

Skateboards are super practical for students and are another completely reasonable alternative mode of transport to cars.

Skateboards are very dangerous on the roads. Boarders tend to weave in and out of traffic to avoid long lineups. Motorists would not be able to avoid collisions with these individuals.

skateboards could be used in the bike lanes, but not on sidewalks. to dangerour for out aging population

Skateboards do not have brakes so stopping them would seem to be unreliable. They are noisy and riders of skateboards seem to have attitude meaning most don't respect other users of public streets and roads.

Skateboards do not have safety features such as dedicated steering or brakes. Nor do the operators require any form of training. Operator competencies have a vast range from very competent to incompetent. This does not bode well for the safety of all operators or those in their vicinity.

Skateboards don't belong downtown. Vehicles and bicycles seem to have a hard enough time sharing the road without adding another element.

Skateboards don't have brakes or lights, they should not be allowed withing the downtown core.

Skateboards should be allowed downtown. They are a great way to get around. And are another mode of transport that is non-polluting.

Skateboards should be allowed in bike lanes and roads. Allowing boarders on sidewalks may cause space problems unless it is clearly stated that pedestrians have the right of way.

Skateboards should be aloud

Skateboards should be seen as a legitimate transportation mode in and through downtown.

skateboards will have to avoid cars busses and construction sites on the roads

Skaters beware!

Victoria drivers are notoriously bad.

Some of the roads downtown are poorly constructed and are hazardous to all forms of transportation, especially those who travel on skateboards.

Some people aren't fit to play in traffic,just as some aren't fit to drive.

Sounds dangerous, both for the skateboarders and the drivers trying to get around them

Still not addressing bike lane issues

Strongly disagree with allowing skateboards on streets downtown. Motion of boards is unpredictable, faster than pedestrian making them vulnerable to turning traffic. I have never seen a boarder use lights or reflective wear, making them nearly invisible.

Supporting any sort of athletic activity and green transportation alternative is commendable. Also, it would be nice to see local skateboarders be able to skate through the "red zone" while en route to the only skateboard park that the city has provided in Vic West. The city of Victoria should consider another park in the city somewhere. We certainly have enough facilities in place for traditional "ball sports" already. Perhaps a replacement for the Crystal Pool could incorporate a skateboard park.

terrible idea!! so many people walk to work, older people walking downtown, forget it!!

That if forced to use the streets they will default to picking quieter streets that are largely residential. This may encourage them to use those areas as a park, which I have seen in front of my building, damaging property I collectively pay for with other residence. Otherwise I have no issue

The current bylaw should not be amended as it will pose an increasing risk to pedestrians, skateboarders and motorists. There is also the issue as to how will pay for possible injuries caused by skateboarders. They have no insurance through ICBC to cover the cost of damage to second and or third parties. This issue is very crucial.

The difference in speed between cars, bikes, and now skateboards could be a problem.

The lack of an emergency braking system on the boards and the likelihood that the board becomes a projectile when/if the rider parts company with it while in traffic concerns me.

The ongoing noise and the negative attitude displayed towards the elderly are problematic.

The roads are not big enough for all the vehicle types. There is hardly room for cyclists and motorists so how will a boarder pass them? You constantly see cyclists riding on the left hand side, not turning and taking up space. As a cyclist, this makes me uneasy on the right side of the road. Skateboarders, based on what I have seen, would do the same.

The same concerns that I have for cyclists are the same for skateboarding....Helmets and all appropriate safety gear, follow the rules of the road.

What if the people skateboarding/long boarding have never had a drivers license and don't know those rules?

The sidewalks should not be for skateboarding, they should be reserved for pedestrians, which is the mode of transportation which should trump all others in priority.

The subject evolves all around safety. The streets are not designed to handle skateboards weaving in and out of traffic. Big car and skate board not a good combo in an accident

The use of skateboards on downtown streets is an excellent idea. In a time where multi-modal transportation is being supported throughout the region, allowing skateboarders on streets is a positive step forward!

Consideration should be given to requiring helmets for skateboarders (as is required for cyclists, tho I realize that helmets are not mandated by the city)

The use of skateboards should not be allowed on downtown streets.

There are many elderly in Victoria who must use the sidewalks. There is no other option to walk --- unless you suggest walking on the street to avoid skateboards!

there is no good reason why skateboarding should not be permitted as a form of transportation (especially considering it is green) as long as it is being done safely and skateboarders are required to follow the same rules as cyclists.

there is very much a culture of automobiles here in north america so alternate forms of transport are not really accepted or tolerated by motor vehiclists. this needs to be changed

These bylaws have been pure ignorance from the get go.

They are a threat to pedestrians

They are dangerous and disrespectful. I have almost hit skateboarders going the wrong way on streets many times.

They are reckless. They don't seem(in my experience) to have any regard for other sidewalk users or road users. Skateboarders on roads are like super fast pedestrians... Vaunrable!

They are too irratic and unpredictable. It is too dangerous to allow them to intermingle with vehicular traffic.

They don't bother me as a pedestrian or cyclist or when I occasionally drive.

They don't signal. They don't have lights. They can't stop safely for unexpected reasons such as a car pulling out in front of them.

They need places to go to have fun and be active! Provide some rules for sidewalk use. But allow!

they should not be on the downtown streets !!

They shouldn't be banned, I can't believe they are.

They weave all over the road, in and out of vehicles. They need to wear helmets.

They will get in the way of an already burdened cyclist community.

They would have to wear helmets and stay off sidewalks. But that makes it difficult for people who are afraid of traffic and don't want to use bike lanes.

This is a positive initiative. We should not deter people from using fuel-free modes of transportation.

This should be allowed, it is no different than cycling.

too dangerous for us having to watch for them and them being aware of what traffic issues are going on around them

Too dangerous! Don't allow it.

Unlike bicycles, skateboards do not have proper brakes. If I am walking downtown, I, as an older person, feel that I would be in danger if the boarder couldn't stop and I couldn't jump out of the way in time.

Use marked bike paths only.

used responsibly, they are a great mode of active transpo for youth

Victoria has a by-law " Removing the current restriction against the use of skateboards on downtown streets "

Now that is a surprise considering every day you see skateboarders on sidewalks in the downtown area. Maybe you should fix that problem first.

We can't allow some common modes of transport and not others.

We should promote all alternative modes of transport that get people out of their cars!

whether someone is operating a car, motorcycle, bicycle, skateboard or anything else, all persons need to watch where they're going, right of way is a joke, open your eyes.

Why not, streets should be for everyone

yeah I do, so when im making a right or left turn through an intersection with a controlled crosswalk ie right off Pandora st to blanshard and some guy comes flying through the crosswalk on his board and gets run over because I didn't see him because of the speed he is doing on the board, its whos fault??? not mine! I think those are hazard to their health. Bad Idea

Yes

yes but they should behave like bikes and no worries

Yes I believe they can startle & scare as someone approaches when you are walking which can lead to that person falling.

Yes, any mode of transportation that does not have the ability to brake is a danger to both the user of the skateboard and all other users of the roads and sidewalks. I find this proposal absurd from a safety point of view.

Yes, do not allow on sidewalks as the law is now, and not on any roads downtown.. Walk your boards, and where permitted, they must obey the traffic laws as any motorist!

Yes, people not wearing proper protecting like a helmet and are wearing headphones or texting while skating boarding on the bike lane will get hit by a moving vehicle!

Yes, skateboards on streets and sidewalks have completely unpredictable motions paths, and lack sufficient control and braking, such that they are a hazard to themselves, pedestrians, cyclists, the undersides of cars & buses, small dogs and lamp posts. The noise skateboarders make is aggravating as well.

yes. Governments r trying to get people to stop driving cars. Skateboarding, rollerblading, cycling, etc, are all viable options, regardless of location (downtown or otherwise). The problem is not the mode of transportation, but rather, the handling/operation of the "vehicle". Do not ban any type of transport, but do penalize those that operate/handle the "vehicle" in an inappropriate or unsafe manner.

Yes. I think there will be a lot more accidents.

Yes. It is not a safe form of transportation whatsoever and should not be legal in our downtown core

when road space is already quite limited. As a driver I do not feel safe driving around skateboarders.

Yes. They are some of the most disrespectful road users. They use sidewalks - they do not follow roadway laws properly. and are a general danger.

Q5 Do you have any comments or concerns around skateboarders complying with the same rule as cyclists?

Total Respondents: 275

I agree

I have no concerns around skateboarders using sidewalks, as it is much safer for them. I do not believe pedestrian safety will be affected.

They should follow the same rules.

2 very different things, they should not be held to the same laws.

50% of cyclists don't follow the rules of the road and I would expect less skateboarders and they are harder to see.

A good idea, keeping in mind however, that many cyclists fail to comply with the rules of the road. And for that matter, the number of drivers I see, daily, going through not just late yellow but red lights, indicates that any problems to arise will very likely be related to drivers, and the lack of traffic cops paying attention on our roads (other than when they need to fill quotas perhaps).

A skateboard is not a bike.

A skateboarder should be competent at riding enough that they can obey all the same rules safely.

All of the skate boarders should apply to the rules of the road, and that goes with all of the bicycles as well.

Anything to reduce car usage!

Are you saying cyclists use sidewalks too or bike lanes? Bike lanes (where they exist) is where skateboards should be

As a driver, I am concerned about allowing skaters on the road. While I myself feel confident/competent to ride in such a way, I do fear for others with less skill/ability -young or old.

As long as the same fines apply, I can't see it being an issue.

as long as they are held accountable. In fact I think more attention has to put on the cyclists of Victoria as well.

As the rules are rarely followed and never enforced, this question is absurd

Bicycles should not be operated on sidewalks. People 16 years of age or younger should have to wear a helmet.

Chaos will reign.

Compliance really has nothing to do with this. People will choose to comply, or not with any rules governing what they are doing. This question seems to presume that skateboarders will be less likely to comply than cyclists, which is discriminatory, what the old bylaw is based on, and is what this updated bylaw would be getting away from, no?

Currently cyclists do not follow the road rules and choose when to follow same rules as vehicles and when they wish to use their own. Already the roads downtown heavily congested with cyclists and cars and horse drawn carriages.

Cyclist do not always abide by these rules and there is no way to enforce them so I believe it is moot to discuss the rules.

Cyclists and skateboarders should not be put under the same category. Skateboarding is dangerous, inconsistent.

Cyclists are a high risk of injury or death as it is.... but do atleast have a mechanical advantage to keep up with fast moving vehicle traffic..... skateboards being propelled by a "foot push" only are menaces & a serious distraction to drivers & pedestrians. They DO NOT belong on streets or sidewalks.... but rather in the specially developed skate board parks only

Cyclists are ruled by the same rules as motor vehicles. I'm not sure it is appropriate to put skateboards under the same rules. Can skateboards go as fast as a car for sustained periods (as a cyclist often can)? Would need to look at each rule to see if it is reasonable for skateboarding.

Cyclists as it is don't comply with proper rules of the road I find it hard to believe skateboarders will either

Cyclists can be equally as much of a problem. One has to look out for scooters, bikes and boarders while trying to walk from one shop to another, taking our life in our hands! Sidewalks are called sideWALKs for a reason !! Get back to reality, WALK.

Cyclists comply with rules?

That's a good laugh.

cyclists don't abide by the rules, in and out of bike lanes, veering from one side of the street to another, not stopping at lights or stop signs, or yield signs, they think they have the right of way so they don't look. Any form of transportation on the streets all need to follow the same rules.

Cyclists don't comply so why would skateboarders? I live right outside the core on Pandora where skateboards are allowed and they don't stay off the sidewalk nor do they stay in the bike lanes. In fact, people constantly skate all over the road. In the evenings (summer included), with a lack of lights and helmets, I fear there will be an accident soon as they can't be seen and come out of nowhere.

cyclists dont comply with the bylaws, you see cyclists riding on sidewalks all the time. Enforcement needs to be increased

CYCLISTS don't comply, so why should skateboarders ?? are you kidding me ??

Cyclists don't follow rules anyways so what will be the difference.

Cyclists don't seem to have rules

Cyclists have brakes. Longboarders don't. This makes it a very different mode of transport.

Cyclists now mostly dont adhere, and who will in force this..

Cyclists obey rules?

Cyclists often don't comply with the rules. I imagine that skateboarders would not either.

Cyclists on a whole barely follow the rules of the road, generally rolling through red lights, barely providing hand signals. I expect boarders to do the same. As a driver it's my responsibility to see them and drive accordingly.

Cyclists wear helmets for their own protection. Most skate boarders do not. If skateboarding is to be a mode of transportation, they should also need to keep safe.

Dangerous!!

Do not allow skate boards in the downtown core.

don't care if anyone complies with any rules as cars are now making the rules by running us over or dooring us or just horning and kjsouting and screaming.

Don't try to get me to change my mind by re-asking the above question!!

Enforce the by-law to STOP cyclists and skateboarders from using the SIDEWALKS!

Even cyclists do not comply with the rules, why would someone on a skateboard? I drive a large vehicle in the downtown core and everyday I have several cyclists squeak by my truck as I am stopped at a light, just to get in front and slow traffic down because I am too large to safely pass the cyclists.

Even if they follow the same rules as cyclists, they don't have as much control as they don't have brakes.

Excellent idea.

Give them the use of the bike lanes.

Geez

Hah!cyclists are dangerous here!If they want to be treated like a vehicle then they need to follow the rules.Skateboards are not the same as cars or bicycles.Different rules need to apply.

Having skateboarders understand and follow the rules of the road is a good approach to regulating skateboarding downtown.

helments and rules of the road would need to be complied with just as a bike or vehicle does.

Helmet laws for adults are rediculous.

Helmets

Helmets should be required

Helmets would HAVE to be enforced. Fines for those without.

How does the city enforce helmet and light laws to skateboarders? Most skateboarders choose not to wear helmets, and lights are near impossible for skateboarders to have on their persons.

How would you educate skateboarders about these rules?

i agree

I agree and encourage lots of marketing of this

I agree that skateboarders should comply with the same rules and cyclists with the exception of mandatory helmets. That law is a huge barrier to sustainable transportation and should be abolished for cyclists as soon as possible. (I know that isn't within the city's powers... But still.)

I agree that skateboarders would yield to pedestrians just like people on bikes do

I agree, however monitoring and enforcement of rules for cyclists is currently sub standard. This needs to improve for both cyclists and skateboarders.

I am a cyclist... downtown bike lanes are disjointed or absent. Can't envision skateboarders sharing the road with cars!! An absurd idea.

I anticipate they will fall into similar bad habits as cyclists if there is not good enforcement. Also I would like to see mandatory helmets, similar to cyclists.

I didn't realize the bicyclists had rules they should be obeying.

I do not have any concerns with this. And i think this is an opportunity for those rules to be better promoted for skateboards, bicycles, and especially for cars. Drivers need to know how bikes are supposed to act on the road.

I don't agree with skateboarders being on the road so No to this question. However, I do think cyclists should be required to be licensed & have some type of insurance.

I don't believe it will be possible for skateboarders to comply with the same rules as cyclists. Skateboards do not have appropriate places to mount lights, mounting on the person is not effective, and skateboards do not have brakes.

i dont really feel safe riding down the road on a bike or skateboard. id prefer the sidewalk

I don't see cyclists following the rules, nor do I see that enforced, I have strong doubts that skaters would be better

I don't see skateboarders using the sidewalks as a big deal, as long as pedestrians have the right of way.

I don't think it should be a problem.

I don't think skateboarders are able to keep up with the vehicle traffic speed; cyclists at least have a fighting chance. I don't drive (bad vision) but I don't think skateboarders would be safe on the streets.

I don't think they will wear helmets and don't believe they will comply with traffic rules.

I have concerns around both cyclists and skateboarders complying with rules (laws). If skateboarders and cyclists would abide by current rules and these rules be strictly enforced there would not be many issues.

I have concerns with cyclists complying with the same rules as cyclists. Maybe this is an opportunity to use signage or some other method to refresh everyone on the rules of the road.

I have no concerns. It seems reasonable that everybody on the road should have rules to follow.

I have serious concerns that skateboarders would not comply with the same rules as cyclists and doubt that the majority would follow the basic rules.

I like this idea, hopefully will promote the use of helmets for skateboarders.

I see some bicyclists still breaking the rules and the skateboarders I've seen generally don't seem to be anymore observant of the existing rules. So what difference is it going to make if you allow skateboarders. There will be more of them, some will be law abiding while others won't. Also have you considered how the claims will be handled between collisions between vehicles and skateboards. I am sure ICBC isn't too thrilled with that. Also who is going to enforce the rules? More police officers?

I think it should be allowed

I think it will be great. When the cyclists had more rights, the majority stepped up to the plate and educated others. I believe the same will happen with the skateboarding community.

I think it would be a great idea.

i think its a great idea

I think most cyclists don't even follow the rules, I definitely don't think skateboarders will.

I think skateboarders should be able to follow the same rules as cyclists.

I think skateboarders should have the same rules as cyclists same goes for tourists.

I think that this could work fine. If they have a legitimate place to ride, they can be excluded from the sidewalks.

I think the same rules that apply to cyclists on the roads should apply to skateboarders: helmets, signals, etc.

I think they should be treated as cyclist and no longer have their skateboards impounded.

I think this would be a good idea.

I think this would be a great idea for skate boards to have the same rules as cyclists.

I was recently rear ended by a hit and run bicyclist at corner of Yates and Blanshard streets. I had to pay the insurance deductible to have my car repaired. My point is bicycles should be licensed. That way I could have perhaps obtain the number on his plate before he fled the scene.

I wish that restrictions on cyclists were more thoroughly enforced.

I worked downtown for 20 years. I used to run a business downtown. I've see it all....or just when I think I've seen it all city hall comes up with this! It is another example of the civic politicians immature self-serving attitudes. It's been a depressing downward spiral to witness. The "new age" civic politicians are out of touch with what is important and what makes Victoria a liveable city. It will be chaos. Changing the by-law will add more stress and tension in the downtown core than already exists. It will deter even more people from coming downtown. How will allowing skateboarders on the streets and sidewalks of Victoria make Victoria a better place to live for the majority of Victorians?

There is NO way that skateboarders will ever be polite, safe and thoughtful toward others. There is NO way that you will ever be able to regulate safety issues with skateboarders. It's not in their culture! They are by nature self-proclaimed "rebels" and as such are severe hazard on the streets and sidewalks downtown. All anyone has to do is spend a few minutes downtown and you'll see a skateboarder weaving in and out of traffic and onto and off of the sidewalks. They scare dogs too which is a huge problem. Good lord city hall. Why are you trying to destroy this city?

I would like to see the cyclist and skateboarders take a written road test to be aware of road rules especially considering right-of-way.

I'd be more worried about those low-down sit bikes. They are very hard to see in people's mirrors

If anything, most riders will tell you the scariest stories about people who drive cars more than stupid things they have seen people on boards do and being the most vulnerable over motorcycles and bicycles are more likely to be safer.

if i did i would keep those ignorant stereotypes to myself

if on the road, they should comply with the same traffic rules

If only the cyclists complied with the rules of the road, I believe only 10% of cyclist obey road signs or traffic lights!

If skateboarders are allowed to use the streets, they should be dismounting to push the button to activate signals. Sometimes the curb ramps are suitable for bikes, but likely won't be easy for skateboarders to negotiate.

If skateboarders complied with the traffic rules, then there should be no problems. However my experience is that most, not all, have their own agenda when it comes to skateboarding on the streets. The city of Victoria does not have the police force to patrol this kind of transportation with everything else they have to deal with in the down town area.

if these means putting both skateboards and bicycles into one traffic lane I think it is a mistake: though fun to use, skateboards are a very inefficient means of transportation and should be kept out of bike lanes. Bike lanes are for bikes, and cyclists have a hard enough time fighting for their space with cars, they should not have to worry about skateboards. This said, there is no reason why skateboards cannot remain on sidewalks. They take up a small amount of space and most skateboarders share the sidewalk with pedestrians.

If they are allowed then the rules should be the same for skateboarders and cyclists. Obey traffic control devices and use bike lanes.

If they are the same rules as for bikes that drive through red lights, bike through crosswalks when convenient then ride down the roads, or cut across traffic without signalling, then no. I think bikes and skateboarders should be licensed and have to take a test so that they know the rules of the road. Drivers have to do so before being allowed on the roads. They should also have to be covered by some sort of insurance, I think. The one thing that really bothers me about the Victoria area is that BIKE LAWS ARE NOT ENFORCED by police. At the very least, if these people are going to be allowed on the roads then they should be ticketed and have to pay a fine if they do not follow the rules of the road. WHAT IS THE POINT OF HAVING RULES IF THEY ARE NOT ENFORCED?

If they follow the rules like bikes it would be a great idea

If they would comply that would be a step in the right direction. From reading the comments on facebook they seem to be very agaisned any form of control or rule compliance.

If we had European style bike lanes that are totally segregated from traffic and pedestrians then I think skateboarders could coexist on our streets. These lanes are located between parked cars and

sidewalks.

In bike lanes with helmets. Bike and boarders need to abide the rules of the road. Stop signs crosswalks more attention needs to be paid to cyclist, licencing would encourage more responsibility. More enforcement of the rules of the road to alternate modes of transportation.

In sharing the same roads skateboarders need to follow the same traffic laws as bicycles and motorized vehicles. This includes lighting, especially at night, and helmets. Being smaller than either, there are additional concerns about visibility. Someone in an SUV is less likely to see someone on a skateboard than a bicycle for example. There are other questions, especially with regard to something like left turn lanes. Should skateboarders be considered a hybrid between a bicycle and a pedestrian - crossing traffic at pedestrian crossings for example? That would probably be safer. I don't believe skateboards should be used on sidewalks as they're much too fast for the speed of pedestrian traffic. This is especially true in high traffic areas, and in zones frequented by seniors and children. In some countries - like Holland, for example - bicycles (and presumably skateboards) have their own lanes and their own traffic signals.

It is my observation that most cyclists downtown want the best of both worlds! They have dedicated lanes on the streets and also use crosswalks to make turns that would not be permitted under the motors vehicle act or city bylaws. Cyclists, bards, roller skates and any contraption with wheels for moving a human faster that pedestrians must abide by the same rules. If they want to have special treatment, they must abide by rukles that give respect to pedestrians. NO rolling on sidewalks or crosswalks - period!

It should be the same. Exsept skateboarders shouldn't have to go in the bike lane, it should be optional.

It will be interesting to see how this is implemented. Skateboards have no status under the provincial motor vehicle act. There are the issues of helmets and lights. The streets and traffic byaw needs to strictly define skateboards to allow for enforcemen.

it wont work

It won't work.

It would be nice if cyclists complied with the rules for cyclists.

It's a good starting place and grounds expectations in behaviours and rules that most people are familiar with and can anticipate. The current lack of separated bike lanes or continuous bike paths around the city may make the interactions between cars, bikes, and skateboards problematic in some areas.

its hard to compare to a bike because they are more side walk friendly and you can pick it up and

become a pedestrian very easily. whats the laws on scooters?

I've seen a long boarder waiting in the left hand lane waiting to make a turn, it just doesn't seem like a good idea.

Keep the roads for vehicles that can travel at similar speeds safely and also maneuver and stop safely when necessary.

Let them ride

Let us shred!

Makes perfect sense to me. They should need to wear a helmet though if they are to use the bike lanes

makes sense

Makes sense to me.

makes sense, and everyone should use common sense

makes sense.

Many of the skateboarders, and a lot of the cyclists that I have encountered do not follow rules. From travelling the wrong direction on a one-way road, not wearing helmets, or reflective clothing at night. Some cyclists are a cyclist, and then become a pedestrian, then a cyclist again.

More accidents will happen in the cycling lane if skateboarders are allowed to use it

Most cyclists do not comply with 'the rules of the road' and I cannot imagine boarders being any different...another distraction for vehicle drivers to be aware of.

Most cyclists do not obey the rules of the road so I have no faith skateboarders will. And if they did, they have no protection from a car or bus nudging them. It is common downtown to see cyclists riding beside the right hand side of cars that are stopped at a sign or driving slow in heavy traffic. Skateboarders will do the same and they are even harder to see than a cyclist. (Streets that have bike lanes are an exception to this comment)

Most cyclists don't comply with any rules. I have been cut off/ had to swerve to avoid and/ or been stuck behind cyclists rising in the middle of the lane and making turns by swinging out to the middle of traffic on a daily basis when the weather is good. Adding skateboarders to the mix will make driving downtown twice as hard and dangerous

Most likely, there will be low compliance. Think about the demographic you're dealing with.

Most of them don't comply with the current "rules"! Will the rules be amended to deal with cyclists and skateboarders sharing bike lanes? How will this be done in a safe way?

Most skateboarders won't go on the street, preferring the sidewalk. However there are many bikers who also ride on the sidewalks. They are oblivious and don't care about the rules

My biggest concern is with the boarders, cyclists and those in motorized scooters who think they are in some kind of a rodeo while they weave in and out of the paths of the oncoming pedestrians.

My only concern is the potential conflict if skateboarders start filling up bike lanes. Not sure if this actually would be an issue, but I see that it could.

need to follow the same rules as bikes while skating, or if you pick up your board and carry it now your a pedestrian

no

no

No

No

No

no

No

No

no

no

No

No

No
no
No as skateboards don't go that fast.
No because most boarders are extremely safe. It's the few who ruin the image.
No concerns it seems logical
No concerns.
no concerns. common sense should rule. Not many skaters even ride at night. Consider they don't ride up hill or in the rain either. When you consider the number of pathways that are even available to them in the core, we are talking about 4 or 5 blocks total. Give it a shot. Skaters already ride the streets every dry day anyway. Why not make it legal and give everybody a chance to use skateboards responsibly.
No it's exactly that. Share the road and be careful of others that's it
No they should be licensed and insured like cars.
No, that would be a good step.
no, this sounds good.
No.
No.
No.
No.
No.
No.
No. Let them ride.
No... It's a good idea

None
none
None
None.
Nope
nope
nope sounds great
nope, although I don't think skateboarders should be forced to ride on the busy downtown streets
Nope, People have the option to obey the rules, some do, some do not, it has not merit based on their transportation choices.
Not at all!
not at the moment
Not really, though skateboarders are more likely to use sidewalks and roadways.
Not really.
Not sure how easy it will be for skateboarders to comply with this, but think that its worth a shot.
Once again the relatively few Cyclists who "come rain or shine" who actually use the bicycle as their everyday mode of transportation should be licensed and pay ICBC rates of insurance to protect the majority from illegal driving habits i.e. no lights, no helmets and a complete disregard of the rules of the road.
Only that skate boards are not the same as bicycles and have no place on city roads or sidewalks.
part of the 5 mill earmarked for cycling should go to educating cyclists and skateboarders regarding their safety and those of drivers and pedestrians
Perfectly OK.

Rules mean nothing unless enforced!

Rules would be unenforceable, and I seriously doubt efforts would be made to do so.

Same as above

Same rules are good . Enforcement is too rare ,

Same rules should apply with the following changes:

- Helmets should not be req
- Should Not be allowed on major car routes like bicycles are without a bike lane
- Need a provision to prevent people from practicing tricks on downtown streets at night, staying in one place and generating alot of noise for residents

Same rules.

See above.

See above.

see above.....

SAME rules of the road

HELMET at all times

OFF sidewalks

Seems reasonable

seems reasonable.

Should be able to use sidewalks

Skate boarders do not belong on main roads and thoroughfares

Skateboarders are not subject to the MVA; 'Cycle' does not mean skateboard per s 119.

skateboarders don't comply to any rules as is. What makes you think they'd behave on the streets?

Skateboarders except for a few will never comply. Why do cities build skateboard parks ? A huge

number of cyclists don't obey the rules. Just look out the window and in a few minutes count the number of cyclists who disobey the law. Can you imagine skateboarders on Government street during a long holiday tourist weekend. Police & by-law officers have better things to do.

skateboarders or long borders need to comply with the same rules that cyclist do to be safe on the road with traffic!!!

skateboarders should be allowed to skate safely downtown, with rules that can co-exist with bikers, drivers and people on foot

Skateboarders should be permitted to use sidewalks in Victoria.

Skateboarders should be required to follow the same rules as cyclists as it is my understanding that the bike lanes will be shared.

The rules should also include the use of helmets as a requirement.

skateboarders should comply with the same rules as bikes such as helmets etc to allow for proper and safe use of the city roads.

Skateboarders should follow the same rules as cyclists.

skateboarders should have same rules

Skateboarders should wear helmets.

skateboards can ride a lot slower than bikes and skateboarders can even carry them in there arms, so why arent they allowed to use the sidewalks if they don't feel safe?

Skateboards getting respect as fellow road users

Skateboards have no controls for either braking or accurate steering which will inevitably result in injuries and conflict. Again an absurd proposal.

Some cyclists have no regard for the rules of the road. Put a skateboard in their same area and there will be chaos.

sounds good

Sounds like a fine plan. I have no problem sharing a bike lane with a skate boarder.

Sounds possible
Sounds right to me!
sounds sensible to me
Stopping at fourway stop intersections and stoplights should be common sense anyways.
Sure.
That seems like a sensible way to approach it.
That would be fair.
The means of propelling, steering and stopping skateboards is not conducive to public safety on our public roadways..
The same common courtesy as cyclists: use lanes properly, wear helmets (for their own safety), and throw on some reflective gear when it's dark out.
The same rules should apply to skateboarders as to bicyclists. They should also be subject to the same fines as bicyclists.
The sidewalks down town Are busy with people now And more in the summer months, keep the skate boards And cycles away from the downtown sidewalks please.there are not many sidewalks left for people to walk now, if skate boards and cycles are allowed it would be Awful for people walking
The skateboarders I have witnessed disobey the rules of the road. Although there are some responsible skateboarders; the bad ones outweigh the good ones. The vast majority of them (like cyclists) refuse to wear helmets.
The would have to wear helmets and do proper hand signals.
Their attitude of disrespect will prevail.
There are good cyclists and careless ones. The same would be true of boarders. Do either pay for and

carry insurance and a license to demonstrate their responsibility for safe operation of their chosen mode of transport?

There is absolutely no way that they will comply

They all must obey the same rules.

They aren't vehicles under the motor vehicle act. Are cars going to be required to yield to skateboards in Victoria?

They can go the same speed sometimes but should always wear protective helmets.

they don't pay attention to the rules just like many of the cyclist

They have to wear helmets right? If they are confident enough to ride on the road as a bike/ in a bike lane, I think its ok

they likely wouldn't

They must wear helmets just as cyclists are required to.

they should

they should

They should get a ticket as well if they are not wearing a helmet or texting while on their skateboards.

They should have the same rules as cyclists.

they should have to comply will all rules

they should use bike lanes and wear helmets just like cyclists

They would likely need their own set of rules. I personally don't care if they use the sidewalks either (Safely).

this is a common sense plan

This makes sense to me

This seems only fair that skateboarders exercise the same rules and regulations as cyclists, especially since they will be sharing the road. However, I do not feel that a helmet should be necessary for

skateboarders. My reasoning for this is that cyclists are required to wear a helmet under section 184 of BC's Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). Skateboards are not referenced in the MVA.

Too large a number of cyclists refuse to comply with current regulations and there is no reasonable expectation that the users of skateboards will do any better. I would predict that their behaviour would be worse.

Too many will not comply!

We need to be encouraging active modes of transportation. Streets are public spaces to be used by the people. They are not utilities only to be used by cars.

We should make it safe for people to get around by bike or skateboard.

What are the rules for cyclists?

What exactly are the same rules as cyclists? As far as I understand it's the same rules for car drivers. Except rules regarding bells, being able to lock up the rear wheel, helmets, etc.

What rules. Bicyclists ignore rules and are never charged. Does this mean skateboarders have to stay off sidewalks since cyclists are considered the same as other vehicles.

When one is passing the other, they will have to go into the lane with the cars... and I see such a disregard for cyclists and boarders for drivers. They don't pay attention like drivers do (shoulder check etc) and I've seen drivers having to veer out towards the next lane to them to safely pass the cyclist. Kind of like when the cyclist is passing a bus. They don't check to see if it is safe, they just move.

who will enforce it

works for me

Would prefer them being treated as such than weaving in and out of foot traffic on sidewalks. Portland, OR is a great example to look at. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/405782>

Yep. It doesn't make sense. They are two different types of transport all together and skateboards are not as easy to control

yes

Yesmany cyclists do not follow the rules of the road blast through stop signs, no helmets and it is overlooked.

Yes concerned that they have no way of lighting up when it becomes dusk and dark in evening.
Concerned about driving and not being able to see them.

Yes they are two different things it's like putting skating tickets on your drivers license it's silly and makes no sense

But politicians are not known for making sense

Yes they move way faster than bikes do.

Yes, they will be in cyclists' way.

Yes, they will not follow the rules. Mark my words. I work in the downtown core; they are a constant menace to pedestrians. And they will be a constant menace to traffic if they are permitted on roadways.

Yes. Bicycle users have much more potential for control over their "vehicle" than do skateboarders. Steering and braking on a bicycle are much more manageable on a bicycle being as they have separate controls for both.

Yes. Skateboarding should be on the sidewalk, not on the road. If the sidewalks are too busy, skateboarders should be walking.

Yes. I think that is asinine.

Every mode of transportation has different capacities and risks. Should we ask pedestrians to shoulder check twice and use a hand signal before they turn a corner? That would be idiotic, they are not cars.

Skateboards are not bicycles. They should not be regulated as bicycles. They are slower than bicycles and smaller than bicycles. They require more effort than bicycles, which changes the behaviour of the skater.

Furthermore, many of the regulations governing bicycles are bad. Why apply them to skateboarders?

Like it or not, many things in life require judgment, both on the part of the citizen and the enforcer. Stop trying to make a bylaw to cover every eventuality.

What it comes down to is that everybody has a right to feel safe on the roads and sidewalks. Be considerate of drivers that do not want burned into their brain the image of your broken body on their hood. Be considerate of pedestrians who can be surprised by skaters overtaking them quickly.

And the City needs to be considerate that many skaters are teenagers, and therefore are inherently selfish. If it was possible to regulate teenagers to be more polite, it would have happened centuries

ago.

Stop impounding skateboards, and stop trying to write a rule for e everything. If your staff cannot use discernment, then they are unsuited for the job and should be fired.

Yes. It is hard to imagine that skateboarders wearing helmet and if they were to be ticketed they will complain and get angry.

Yield to people!

Q6 Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Total Respondents: 275

Thanks for keeping an open mind

:)

A Skateboard or longboard may be someone's only way of transportation, but

Downtown, everything is such a short distance from each other that people could walk to and from their destination.

Abandon the concept

allow cyclists and skateboarders on downtown streets

Allow skateboarders to use the sidewalk.

Allow skateboarding at city hall centennial square this environment is empty at times andbcould attract tourists and spectator's.

Allowing skateboarders to be on the streets of downtown is commendable as it's a healthy and inexpensive mode of transportation. If our streets can't accommodate all modes of transportation to be safely integrated, then it's a short coming of the design and should be revisited, as opposed to banning or eliminating people's options on how they navigate our city.

As a cyclist & someone who walks into town most weekends for brunch, I support alternative modes of

transportation and equality. This rule was passed in the 90's for a good reason. It is reckless to allow them on the street. Skateboards should not be impounded.

As a person who is mobility impaired, and has no choice to get to work except by taking my car, I say the streets downtown are already hard enough to get through safely. Think about ways to get the cyclists off the roads instead of adding more issues. Or add a significant police presence to make sure that all those who are unlicensed, untrained riders/boarders follow the safety rules!!!!!!

As a skateboarder myself i think it's a good idea. it's not more dangerous to skateboard in the street than to do bicycles.

As above- our main concerns with transportation downtown should be with bad drivers running red lights etc.

As above, all this is for the protection of the boarder, pedestrians and auto drivers!

ban all car traffic downtown and give up on traffic lights. Be happy.

Ban skateboards from city sidewalks and roads.

Banning something that promotes exercise and green transportation in a dt core is ridiculous. Please remove this ban asap, not all of us are "nearly dead" and it's embarrassing.

Barcelona is a good example.dropping the ban and allowing skateboarders to skate famous monuments which endorses tourism in a major way.another amazing example is the LA courthouse in California.Lifted the ban and now have available "safe skate zones" skate parks are great but nothing beats places to skate that were not ment to be skate spots in the first place.consider "centennial square "downtown where they would allow certain days of the week that skaters can enjoy the plaza and that would bring more tourism dollars as Vancouver already experiences in the summer.

be the first city in Canada to legalize skateboarding and truely encourage alternative modes of inner city transportation. How cool is that?

Bicycles should be licenced as they use to be and they should not be allowed on sidewalks along with skateboarders. They just don't care about pedestrians.

Cars should be a secondary form of transportation in the downtown core. Walking, biking, skateboarding, scooting, rollerblading, and any other healthy and/or environmentally friendly form of transportation should be highly encouraged.

Clarify which actions are dangerous on sidewalks ... using sidewalks in a CAREFUL manner should NOT

be an offence unless there is undue care-and-attention

Continued public consultation is key. Utilizing local skateshops and social media as a means to reach out is a good way to go about it.

Please contact me if you need assistance. I am a skateboarder of 25+ years experience. I also helped get a few skatepark built.

jimmywmiller@hotmail.com

Create dedicated, protected bike lanes - similar to Copenhagen Plans - (Jan Gehls - urban plans) - shut down streets in downtown core, create more 2-way streets.....create livelier streets for pedestrians - outdoor cafes, food vendors (carts), more pop up parks downtown - greener more lively city!!

Do not change the current law!!

Downtown is already difficult to drive in, why change an effective bylaw???

do not make it worse

Don't change the rules

Don't do it!

Down town is already to busy without skateboards added to the mix.

Dumb idea

enforce irreverent bike behaviour NOW and set the tone for boarders

Enforce the by-law to STOP cyclists and skateboarders from using the SIDEWALKS!

Fines should be applied to skateboarders disobeying the rules imposed on them in the Downtown core.

Focus on bike lanes

Going from point A to point B on a skateboard shouldn't be illegal. If someone is abusing the law, such as skating on private property after being asked to leave, then fine them.

Good start towards promoting more active transportation. Car free Sunday next perhaps?

Great initiative. Keep up to speed and acknowledge what is happening instead of ignoring it.

How can we be opposed to anything that keeps our community active? As usual I would hope that helmets and proper safety equipment will be used.

How is allowing skateboarding downtown increasing the safety of pedestrians on sidewalks? As I understand it bicycles and skateboards are not allowed on sidewalks. Though this has not deterred there use by non-pedestrian traffic.

I am against this idea

I am all for skateboarding as a mode of transportation.

I am the wife of a skateboarder, the sister-in-law of a professional skateboarder, and the mother of a skateboarder. I have lived in Victoria for almost all of my life. Allowing the use of skateboards in downtown Victoria is way overdue.

I believe in sharing.

Cyclists and skateboarders should be allowed to share both the roadway and the sidewalk with vehicles and pedestrians.

There are times when the roadway is just too dangerous for cyclists and skateboarders to share with vehicles. That's when we feel obliged to share the sidewalk with pedestrians.

Safety first! And safety for all.

I believe the by law banning skateboards on roads should be lifted.

I do feel the by-law should be changed; ie: not be able to confiscate their boards.

I don't agree with personal property (skateboards) being confiscated for bylaw infractions.

I don't skate but I think we should be encouraging more green and efficient ways for people to get around! Skateboarding is so fast and easy, and don't require any parking/lockup. It seems like the ultimate way to travel!

I don't think changing the bylaws is a good idea.

I feel that this perception of skateboards and those who ride them is out-dated and discriminatory. They should not be banned, but subject to rules in order to protect everyone's safety.

I have been run into twice by skateboarders on the sidewalk in the downtown core. Who would know there has been a ban...?

I have nothing against skateboards or their riders, but I do believe that the safest place for them is on the sidewalks.

I heard an interview on the radio the other day about how pedestrian deaths on the roads are not down whereas other road deaths are. It seems the problem is there are no ways to keep people safe from cars in the wet and dark. If pedestrians aren't being super alert and dressed in bright light colours they are sometimes hard to see. A skateboarder is just this problem moving faster! I do not think they should be encouraged to use roads. Not safe! Danger !

I recommend having them wear flashing lights at night. It'll be difficult seeing them if they use bike lanes.

I spend a lot of time (professionally) driving in downtown Victoria and I would express an hearty "NO" to relaxing the current regulations.

I strongly support the use of skateboards in the downtown core and also the decision not to impound them.

I support maintaining the current bylaw - no skateboards within the downtown core. The lack of road room and cyclists not complying with the rules in our downtown is the reason my husband and I always choose to walk rather than drive or bike. Allowing skateboarders will only make it more crowded and less pedestrian friendly as boarders cut pedestrians off when the pedestrian has the right of way but the boarder does not want to stop.

I think it's great that you're trying to accommodate, but I don't think it's safe having skateboards and cycles in the same small lane.

I think people should be allowed to use skateboards and scooters anywhere in our city, as long as they are being as safe as possible - using helmets and obeying the same traffic rules as cyclists. As a community we should welcome the use of all non-fossil fuel based modes of transportation.

I urge the City of Victoria to not consider this change for the safety of drivers, pedestrians as well as skateboarders.

I would like the ban on skateboarding on Victoria streets lifted. Ticket those who are riding reckless.

I would like to note that my primary mode of transportation alternates between foot and skateboard, depending on the weather. A skateboard would be my choice nearly 100% of the time if weather permitted. With that in mind, I would imagine that most skateboarders will not be exercising this mode of transportation during wet and/or rainy days. I'm not sure how this affects the overall demographic when considering repealing this bylaw but it is something to consider. I would also like to note that throughout the 3+ years I have lived in Victoria, I have never once noticed a skateboarder disrupt or

antagonize the flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic in such a way that it caused an uproar, and I commute through the downtown core on a daily basis. In fact, I see most skateboarders are quite considerate of road and sidewalk users, often picking up their boards to go through large crowds of people rather than try to intimidate or push their way through. And I do not say this in an attempt to be bias since I am a skateboarder. This is a genuine observation.

I would also like to express that skateboarding is a form of "green" transportation. There are no emissions. Riding a skateboard does not take up much room on the roadways. It is also an excellent type of exercise. By eliminating this antiquated bylaw I feel that it would promote a healthier culture that is more environmentally friendly. To me that describes Victoria pretty darn well!

Thank you for offering members of the public to share their opinions.

I would rather deal with skateboarders on the sidewalk then the beggars, buskers, loitering drug dealers and sleepers. Try focusing on that instead of another simple mode of transportation.

I would recommend discussions with the cycling groups in the city if this were to pass in order to inform cyclists how to share the space with skateboarders. Perhaps more could be done with drivers as well (as a reminder to everyone what the expectations are for sharing the road).

I wouldn't recommend forcing skateboarders to wear helmets. Mainly because it just won't work.

If a person is injured by a speeding boarder, who pays the lawsuit, city ?!

If council thinks safety, then you should get on with more important issues. Stop wasting money...

If skateboard use becomes permitted in downtown my family will cease shopping and using other services there.

If such a change took place in response to a vocal and orchestrated minority then one would hope that the Skateboarder would have to be helmeted, have lights fore and aft and have protective gear on such that the rest of us are not penalized when it comes to paying medical bills.

If we allow skateboards on streets we will surely see an increase in injury perhaps even deaths occur. This is a really hard issue. and regardless of the outcome people will be upset.

If you allow skateboarding then increase the penalties for non-compliance.

If you approve this, you might as well approve my crazy carpet for snowy commutes.

If you can roller blade then you should be able to skate

I'm all for road safety for all. Respect for all.

I'm strongly opposed to skateboards being allowed on the streets.

I'm young and still feel allowing skateboards in bike lanes is silly.

Improve infrastructure to support non automobile traffic of all kinds.

In addition to allowing skateboarding in the downtown core, there should be further amenities for skateboarding as an activity. Such as a skateboard park in Beacon Hill Park, Fernwood, or another location to compliment the amenity in Vic West.

In my opinion, boarding should not be allowed on Douglas, Blanshard, Pandora, Johnson, Yates, or Fort Streets. Traffic is chaotic enough without risking the lives of people boarding through these streets.

it sickens me as a person who grew up in victoria that we had to wait this long to be able to skateboard in my home city.

Toronto was great, we could skateboard on the streets and sidewalks, never had a problem with, people , cars , or police. Growing up in victoria as a child in fear of the police taking my transportation, the thing I love the most in my life being stolen from me, by the authorities. I could go on for hours. Traumatized.

It would be awesome if we had streets exclusively for bicycles, skateboards and public transportation ONLY. It is done in Europe in most downtown cores. Our infrastructure seems outdated and too car dependent.

It would be better to refrain from impounding Skateboards and to stop security guards wrestling with them too. I also think Skateboarders who are commuting should wear helmets. If they are doing tricks - maybe write them a ticket for 'stunt skating' in a public thoroughfare.

It's about time skateboards are allowed downtown. It's the only way some people can travel since bikes get stolen like crazy here.

It's about time that the city of Victoria step up to this issue. Skateboarding has been legal in Vancouver for years now and there have been no issues with the skaters in Vancouver.

It's been a long time coming. Allow skateboarding downtown already.

just make sure that the rules are both consistent and enforced.

Keep skateboards off the streets please.

Keep the skateboarders off the sidewalks as someone is going to get injured and if they are allowed to share bike lanes they must comply with the same rules as a cyclist or driver.

Keep the skateboarders off

the sidewalks for the sake of the seniors who have money to spend downtown!

Keep them off the streets!

Keep things as they are . There isn't enough boarders on the roads to waste valuable resources worrying about satisfying their needs.

less people in cars the better

Let people get around how they want to as long as it's safe.

Let people use skateboards. Stop wasting police resources on silly bylaws.

Let the people skate!

Lets all of us be curtious with each other on all of the city side walks.

make them pay insurance. It doesn't have to be much, but enough for them to mind what they are doing.

More bike lanes and overpasses please.

More inclusive, more multimodal, the better. I think this a great idea.

Much as I like driving, I wish there were larger "Pedestrian only" areas of downtown Victoria. No cyclist or skateboards either. The noise skateboarders make is aggravating as well.

My preference would be to see skateboarders on the sidewalks, more similar to pedestrians. They would have to ride safely, keep to a reasonable speed, allowing for other sidewalk users to continue to safely share the walk-way. When pedestrians are congesting the sidewalk, skateboarders should dismount.

My suggestion is anyone caught skateboarding and this includes tourists skateboarding in the downtown core will be fined \$300 and skateboard taken till they pay the \$300 to get it back. Anyone caught skateboarding in the downtown core with out protective gear will be charged \$700 and two

weeks of the boarder rights having a skateboard taken. anyone Caught doing skate tricks on side walk and other property and railing will be charge \$1500 if its the same boarder will have rights taken from using skateboard ever again and be screened and monitored.

n/a

Need more skateboard amenities in the city. Its a legitimate mode of transportation in the city.

need some rule about cycists pulling up on right of cars that want to turn right at corners

No

No

No

No

No

no

No

No

No

no

no

NO TO SKATEBORDERS AND BIKES AND TEXTERS ON SIDEWALKS AND STREETS

No.

No.

No.

No. Let them ride.

None.

Pay for parking on Sundays.

Penalize inappropriate handling/operation; don't outright ban any form of transport.

Please do not let skateboarders travel in our downtown core. I do not want to be responsible, legally or conciously, of hitting someone on a board. It's inevitable.

Please keep them off the sidewalks and streets. Confiscations seems reasonable a reasonable consequence for non-compliance

Please let this happen, Victoria doesn't want to be known as no fun city does it???

Police should focus on catching impaired drivers rather than ticketing skateboarders.

removing the ban on skateboards on the streets is a good idea

Rethink more safety issues for young ppl. Helmets?

Same as Question #4.

See above. Moving devices on sidewalks and crosswalks is a problem sen every day downtown! I have spoken with many elderly people who feel the same way. There are enough obstacles on the sidewalks for pedestrians to navigate as it is, with panhandlers, groups assembling and sitting on the sidewalk, etc. PLEASE LET'S IVE SOME RIGHTS BACK TO PEDESTRIANS.

Short answer: I am strongly against legalizing the use of skateboards on the streets and sidewalks in Victoria.

They should be restricted, unconditionally, to the skateboard parks because of the recreational toy that they are.

They are NOT a legal form of transportation. I believe the city could be sued for changing the by-law based on that fact alone.

Should have to wear helmets. protective clothing, signal their intentions ie left or right. I just think it's too dangerous for them alongside traffic, too too easy for an accident to happen and them being severely injured. and who's fault will that be - the motorist?

Should Victoria proceed with allowing this venture I recommend they provide an expedient manner for litigation. Future accidents will no doubt be a direct result of Victoria's folly.

Skate or die.

Skateboard is a useful mode of transportation downtown so we don't have to waste gas money

Skateboarder should wear something reflective so they can be seen especially now with the time change. It is darker at lot soon....Helmet are a must for protecting your head. It may not look cool,but you will live to see another day!

Skateboarders should not be allowed on either sidewalks or roads.

Skateboarders will want to ride in bicycle lanes which would put them in conflict with the MVA.

Skateboarders would have to wear helmets with lights and reflective gear. This would greatly improve their safety as well as the safety of the drivers.

In a perfect world, the city of Victoria would have certain streets or lanes appointed for non vehicle transportation in the downtown area.

Skateboarders=Organ Donors

Skateboarding has been stigmatized for so long, it's time to embrace it as an alternative mode of transportation and entertainment, rather than persecute it.

skateboarding is a form of transport, much like cycling and pedestrians. skateboarding without following appropriate and safe rules is also dangerous. there needs to be a program where cyclists, vehicles and pedestrians can co-exist each with their own choice of transport

skateboarding is a good mode of transportation

Skateboarding is a person-propelled means of transportation; it should absolutely be encouraged over driving. It helps combat obesity problems and does not pollute.

skateboarding is not a crime. please treat it like all other modes of transportation and recreation

skateboarding should be allowed on the sidewalks, parks, and on the trails by the harbor aswell

Skateboards are not a vehicle and should not be allowed on the road. They do not have a light or brakes like a bicycle. This city is difficult enough to drive in without making it worse. We have alot of tourists and tour buses also driving down our narrow streets.I live in downtown and it is a nightmare as it is to frive here without making it worse. If you want people to bike downtown then some effort and money should be put into making it safer for them, first! Why do you do everything backward here? First you build or designate proper areas for bikes and whatever else you want to drive down the roads.

Then you change the laws, I would think.

Skateboards have never been a problem to me as they know I am bigger than them

skateboards should be confiscated if they skate on the sidewalk . Also signs should be posted stating no bikes or skateboards on sidewalks

Skateboards should not be allowed downtown because it would lead to potential collisions with pedestrians and cyclists.

Skateboards should remain out of the downtown core. If I have to compete for sidewalk space with boarders, then that gives me less reason to come downtown Victoria. If the business community wants fewer seniors spending money downtown then go ahead and allow skateboards.

Skaters are family people and I for one won't take my kids to a city that picks on people doing positive things

Start charging admission to the skateboard park in Vic West.

Start dealing with and licensing motor scooters. They can injure pedestrians without consequences as well.

STOP THE DISCRIMINATION.

I also think personal motor vehicle use in the downtown core should be banned. Thank you.

Terrible idea forget it!!

Thank you, I hope this moves forward.

thanks for putting this to public opinion!

the addition of skateboarding will make a great addition to the overall feel of Victoria, I think it's a great idea.

The area around Douglas and View is particularly bad for all sorts of minor law breaking . Skateboarders, bicyclists, scooter users, motor vehicles and pedestrians are mostly in non-compliance . I would like to see much more enforcement at this location .

The City of Victoria should consider removing physical barriers put up around the city to prevent skateboarding.

The downtown restrictions on skateboarding should continue.

The downtown streets/roadways are very congested now. If the irresponsible skateboarders are permitted to join the foray, then the Victoria Police will have their hands full because of violations. It will not be a priority for them - understandable

The majority of skateboarders are good people coming from diverse backgrounds. Punish those few who deserve it. Look to our Vancouver and the progressive attitude they have with the past, present and future of skateboarding.

The ONLY safe option, it seems, is a dedicated sidewalk lane or street lanes ONLY for skateboarders, cyclists and kick scooters.

The Portland skateboarding law is a good example for us.

The streets are busy enough already and this will not change no matter how many incentives are given.

The traffic flow in Victoria is already bad. Why introduce another element to make it even worse?

The vehicle traffic in the downtown core needs more ideas to help people slow down, get out of their cars, and make it less loud.

There are a lot of myths about skateboarding that exist from a misunderstanding regarding the culture and the way that society typically deals with something that they do not understand. This is a very similar to the myths that have plagued cyclists for years. Please make a decision based on facts and best practices as opposed to opinion that is based on perception.

There is no reason to impound skateboards for vehicle violations, that is simply stupid. Taking a cheap transportation mechanism out of young/poor people. duh.

There may indeed be responsible skateboarders who can make a case for using skateboards as transportation as proposed BUT deaths of pedestrians (particularly seniors with decreased mobility issues) will skyrocket as will the deaths of the "idiot fringe" of skateboard users who have no concept of the dangers to others or, of the common good not to mention whether or not a certain element of skaters may be under the influence of recreational drugs. Skateboards can not ever be seen as a legitimate form of transportation in the core city streets in a city as busy as Victoria. I personally would be much more reluctant to drive through the downtown core (as I do 3 or 4 times a week at present), to support a vibrant set of downtown business and services if I knew there were going to be skateboarders on the loose zooming on and off sidewalks and through intersections at will. Be very very careful Victoria or lawsuits and deaths will come to haunt you.

There needs to be enforcement to ensure they are not riding on sidewalks which could be devastating

for those with mobility/balance concerns. I would like to see a bylaw remain that allows for confiscating boards of riders that do not follow the rules.

They should be permitted on sidewalks, along with bicycles, as long as they're not injuring anyone.

they will do it anyway, so make it legal

this is a great idea grounded in reality.

This is an interesting development! Should make for a fun downtown.

This is another case of the politicians creating controversy to keep their jobs and the beurocracy!

This is ridiculous.

This is the first city that I have ever lived in, that does not allow skateboarding in dt core. It is and always has been my mode of transportation along with the bus and will continue to be

Try it as a pilot program.

Unless skateboarders are willing to carry insurance like motorists do and unless they are required to have training like motorists do, then they should not be allowed anywhere until they show responsibility.

Victoria needs to do a better at designing transportation infrastructure before it can consider allowing other transportation modes to share the bike lanes. Green bike lanes = greater visibility. Those stencilled white cyclists deteriorate and become less visible to motorists.

We can't keep them off of their boards. Might as well regulate it!

We have taxpayer funded skateboard parks for boarders so they should use them. If we allowed them downtown I believe they would be using any available open concrete area to board on. If they were allowed on our streets they would take over the downtown. Very dangerous for all concerned so I hope the laws are not changed.

We need more enforcement on cyclists that no respect for the rules of the road. No helmets. Going through red lights. Wrong way on one way streets & riding on sidewalks.

While I understand that some people like to use skateboards as transportation, I am not in favour of this for the downtown core where many elderly people and tourists are walking. In my experience, skateboarders are somewhat scary to be around for older folk, especially. It just takes one fall for a

senior citizen to become disabled. Please do not do this.

While it's great for transportation, unless you are installing bike/skateboard lanes like those in Europe which are protected by concrete barriers, I don't think it's a good idea. Let them go on the sidewalk where it's safer.

Why engage the public on this? you're only going to solicit response from a small vocal group that can't put other's interests and rights ahead of thier own. Seems to me an elected council should have the ability to represent their constituents. The Beacon Hill Park flip flop is a perfect example... I supported the changes because i shouldnt have to worry about my kid getting hit by a car in a park. This was drowned out by those that think a scenic drive should be the priority. Don't ask... just do the right thing.

Would have to make sure they all wore helmets which they do not like to do.

Yeah, force insurance on anybody who wants to share the road with cars over the age of 16.

Yes, any and all users of the roadways must be equipped with all required safety gear IE brakes, lights, steering, etc none of which a skateboard is equipped for. Skateboards are a danger to all users be it pedestrians cyclists or motor vehicles. Again a completely absurd proposal which will create further havoc on the roads and sidewalks and ultimately lead to serious injuries and deaths.

Yes.it will keep the hospitals and funeral homes busy with mishaps as we have so many elderly unable to move out of the way quickly and with hearing and sight impairments.

Who will monitor those that are irresponsible skateboard users as many of the cyclists are not monitored.

You might want to look at speeding motor scooters for the handicapped and elderly. They go by at quite the clip and you just better get outta their way because they just yell at you! I've been narrowly missed twice already since September.



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the meeting of October 23, 2014

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** October 14, 2014
From: Dwayne Kalynchuk, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Subject: Skateboarding in the Downtown Core

Executive Summary

On January 30, 2014, Council directed staff to provide a report on the impacts of allowing skateboards in the downtown core. Council directed the report address confiscation of skateboards, including implications of using the *BC Offence Act* for guidance.

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council direction regarding proposed changes to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw that would:

- remove the current prohibition against the use of skateboards and other human powered devices on roadways within the downtown core. The current prohibition against the use of bicycles, skateboards and other human powered devices on sidewalks throughout the city would remain in place.
- require users of skateboards and other human powered devices to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists, and
- eliminate the circumstances under which a skateboard or other human powered device could be impounded.

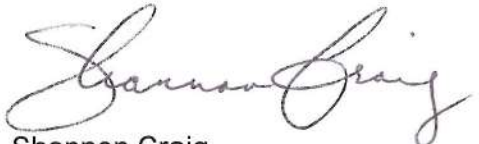
Staff have consulted the VicPD and have asked for general feedback from the Downtown Residents Association and the Downtown Victoria Business Association about potential impacts of a bylaw change, however the specific changes being recommended were not outlined. The primary consideration when reviewing changes to the bylaw, expressed by both City staff and VicPD is safety, both of skateboard users and members of the public. Staff are of the opinion that changing the bylaw to allow skateboard use on downtown roadways would likely have a positive effect on public safety. Skateboarders could then be directed to ride on the road with other traffic, rather than on the sidewalk, to minimize potential conflicts with pedestrians. To mitigate some of the safety concerns associated with skateboards travelling on downtown streets, bylaw changes could be put into place that require skateboarders to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists.

Impoundment of skateboards is a relatively rare occurrence, but has been a useful tool when compliance cannot be achieved by other means. The impound provisions for skateboards noted in the Streets and Traffic Bylaw should be eliminated, given the low number of occurrences annually.

Recommendation

- 1) That Council direct staff to provide a formal opportunity for broader public feedback on the following proposed amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw:
 - a) Removing the current prohibition against the use of skateboards and other human powered devices on roadways within the downtown core and the 2300 block Trent Street. The current prohibition against the use of bicycles, skateboards and other human powered devices on sidewalks throughout the city would remain in place.
 - b) Requiring users of skateboards and other human powered devices travelling on city streets to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists, and
 - c) Eliminating impound provisions specific to skateboards or other human-powered device.
- 2) That Staff report back to Council in January 2015 with public feedback and proposed changes to the bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Craig
Policy Analyst
Legislative and Regulatory Services



Brad Dellebuur
Acting Assistant Director of Transportation
Engineering and Public Works



Dwayne Kalynchuk
Director
Engineering and Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager: _____

Date: _____



October 16, 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council direction regarding proposed changes to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw that would:

- remove the current prohibition against the use of skateboards and other human powered devices on roadways within the downtown core. The current prohibition against the use of bicycles, skateboards and other human-powered devices on sidewalks throughout the city would remain in place.
- require users of skateboards and other human-powered devices to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists, and
- eliminate the circumstances under which a skateboard or other human-powered device could be impounded.

Background

On January 30, 2014, Council passed the following motion:

That Council:

1. Direct staff to provide a report on the impacts of allowing human powered devices skateboards in the downtown core.
2. Further, the report should address confiscation of human-powered devices skateboards, including implications of using the BC Offence Act for guidance.

Section 124(1)(t) of the BC *Motor Vehicle Act* gives municipalities the authority to regulate and control persons using roller skates, sleighs, skates, skis or other similar means of conveyance on highways in the municipality. The City's Streets and Traffic Bylaw currently prohibits individuals from riding skateboards, bicycles, and other human powered devices on sidewalks anywhere within the city.

The bylaw further prohibits individuals from riding skateboards on streets within the downtown core (see Appendix A), and on the 2300 block of Trent Street. These two area restrictions have been in place since the 1990's, and individuals riding skateboards in the restricted areas may have their skateboards impounded. Relevant excerpts from the Streets and Traffic Bylaw are included in Appendix B. Grey highlighting has been used to highlight key bylaw provisions.

Staff consulted with the Victoria Police Department (VicPD), and also asked for feedback from the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) and the Downtown Residents Association (DRA). Staff also met with Jake Warren, a skateboard advocate who has presented previously to Council on this issue. Copies of written feedback received from members of the DVBA and the DRA Board are included in Appendix C. Correspondence and presentations to Council regarding skateboarding downtown and feedback previously received during Official Community Plan consultations were also reviewed.

Issues and Analysis

Impacts of allowing skateboards in the downtown core

Possible positive impacts of allowing skateboards in the downtown core include:

- open and inclusive attitude towards all forms of transportation
- increased economic activity
- reduction in use of cars for transportation in the downtown core
- traffic calming that may be achieved through having a variety of road users
- making downtown more welcoming
- health benefits for skateboard users, and

- an increase in public safety.

Possible negative impacts of allowing skateboards in the downtown include:

- a decrease in skateboarder and public safety, and
- an increase in noise.

It is difficult to verify or quantify many of these impacts because there is no reliable data available on the number of skateboard users in Victoria, or the number of skateboard trips taken within the city or the downtown core. The Bylaw and Licensing Services Division indicates that, from the period from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014, bylaw officers had approximately 400 encounters with individuals riding skateboards in the downtown core. Most of these encounters were with individuals riding on the sidewalk. Bylaw officers estimate that 10 to 15% of the skateboarders they encounter were riding longboards.

A petition presented to Council in support of an end to the impoundment of skateboards and a reduction in the skateboard-prohibited area downtown had approximately 400 signatures. An online petition on the same topic had over 1,000 signatures, with some signatories identifying themselves as skateboard commuters residing in Victoria. Skateboarding was identified as a valued mode of transportation and recreation for the 16-24 age-group during Official Community Plan consultations, with participants at Victoria High and Community Café events, and at a City of Victoria Youth Council workshop expressing a desire to be able to longboard downtown. This anecdotal information suggests some individuals would use their skateboards as a mode of travel on downtown streets, if the current prohibition was lifted.

Safety of both the public and skateboard users is a key concern. VicPD staff expressed concern that skateboards, by design, present a safety issue when ridden in public spaces, due to the lack of control mechanisms (i.e., no brakes or direct steering mechanisms) and the fact that they can become completely uncontrolled projectiles when the rider jumps off or falls off at speed. Other stakeholders expressed concerns that skateboard users present a public safety hazard because they:

- may not be visible to motorists or pedestrians
- may engage in reckless or dangerous behaviour while riding, or
- don't follow the "rules of the road."

For safety reasons, staff recommends the prohibition against skateboard use on sidewalks in the City remain in place. There have been several reports of accidents and injuries to pedestrians from skateboards operated on sidewalks, including a July 3, 2012 incident where two tourists were seriously injured when a skateboarder collided with them on the sidewalk. Staff also recommend the prohibition under the Parks Regulation Bylaw against skateboard use in parks, except where expressly permitted, should continue. This prohibition includes Bastion Square and Centennial Square.

From a transportation perspective, staff support skateboard use on roadways within the City of Victoria, including the downtown core and the 2300 block of Trent Street. A change to allow the operation of skateboards on the road with other forms of traffic would likely have a positive effect on public safety, as skateboarders would be able to ride on the street, rather than on the sidewalk, minimizing potential conflicts with pedestrians.

Some jurisdictions have attempted to mitigate the safety concerns associated with the use of skateboards on roadways by limiting skateboarders to certain streets, prescribing “rules of the road” for skateboarders, or by requiring skateboarders to wear protective gear. For example:

- In Vancouver, skateboards can only be used on “minor streets,” which are streets without lane lines or directional dividing lines. Skateboarders must wear helmets, wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads, and front and rear reflective equipment.
- In Kamloops, skateboards cannot be used on arterial roads, roads within designated commercial areas, or roads with steep grades.
- In Langford, skateboards cannot be used on Goldstream Avenue and surrounding streets.
- In Portland, Oregon, skateboarders under the age of 16 are required to wear helmets. Skateboarders must follow the same rules of the road as cyclists.

It is difficult to determine whether the mitigation measures identified above are effective in reducing safety concerns, or necessary, considering the topography, traffic speeds and traffic volumes on Victoria’s streets. Engineering and VicPD staff do not report any incidents or safety concerns associated with the use of skateboards on roadways outside of the downtown core, which includes busy arterial roadways such as Blanshard Street and Hillside Avenue. This suggests skateboarders are able to safely navigate City streets without the need for further safety-oriented regulations. However, should Council wish to allow the use of skateboards in the downtown core, staff recommend skateboarders be required to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists. As outlined in the Streets and Traffic Bylaw, those rules include:

- not riding in crosswalks
- riding as far to the right of the highway as practicable, unless making a left turn, and
- not riding abreast of another person on a skateboard.

There are provincial requirements for helmets on cyclists, but no similar province-wide requirements for skateboarders. The Province has confirmed through its response to UBCM resolutions on this topic that helmet requirements for skateboarders are an area of local jurisdiction. While helmets would provide safety benefits to users of skateboards, staff do not recommend a mandatory helmet requirement at this time. Skateboard users are currently able to travel on City streets outside of the downtown core without wearing a helmet and no incidents or concerns relating to helmet use have been identified. A mandatory helmet requirement in Victoria would also create inconsistency for skateboard users travelling over municipal boundaries, as no neighbouring municipalities have mandatory helmet requirements for skateboarders.

VicPD staff noted they would support a bylaw change that required users of skateboards and other human powered devices to wear helmets, and are concerned about bylaw changes that encourage skateboard use without a helmet requirement. VicPD staff feel that doing so would send a message contrary to its efforts to encourage helmet-wearing by cyclists. Notwithstanding the fact that cyclists are governed by provincial legislation, the average citizen would see the messaging as completely inconsistent. It is also VicPD staff’s view that the fact that the current bylaw “allows” skateboard use outside of the downtown core without wearing a helmet, simply because the bylaw is silent on that matter, is not determinative of the issue.

If Council wishes to consider whether helmets, lights at night, and/or other safety-related regulations should be mandatory for individuals using skateboards and other human-powered devices, additional consultation with affected groups is recommended. This consultation would likely include outreach to skateboarders and other user groups through a variety of channels, including social media and the City website, skateboard shops, the City of Victoria Youth Council and the Vic West Skate Park.

Impoundment of skateboards

Section 46 of the *Community Charter* gives Council the authority to pass bylaws that:

- authorize the seizure of things unlawfully occupying a portion of a highway or public place, and
- establish fees that are payable if the owner wishes to recover the thing.

The *Motor Vehicle Act* gives municipalities additional powers with respect to highways, including the power to pass bylaws for the removal, detention or impounding of vehicles unlawfully occupying a portion of a highway or public place, and a scale of fees, costs and expenses for that purpose.

Section 102(3) of the Streets and Traffic Bylaw gives the Director of Engineering, VicPD members, and other authorized persons a general authority to impound things unlawfully occupying streets or public places, including skateboards and other human powered devices. The City currently charges a fee of \$25 for the redemption of an impounded skateboard.

The *Offence Act* sets out processes and requirements that govern the seizure of things for evidentiary purposes. It applies independently of the Streets and Traffic Bylaw. It does not provide useful guidance where things are being removed for non-evidentiary purposes.

Some members of the public have suggested the impoundment of skateboards is discriminatory, as it focuses on one user group. For comparison, cyclists who contravene the Streets and Traffic Bylaw are not subject to impoundment of their bicycles.

Currently, impoundment of skateboards is a relatively rare occurrence. VicPD have not impounded a skateboard in many years, while bylaw officers have only impounded six skateboards over the past three years (2012 – 3 impounds, 2013 – 2 impounds, 2014 – 1 impound). Generally, bylaw officers and police officers are able to remedy non-compliance through education. Impoundment is currently used only when compliance cannot be achieved by other means, or where the non-compliance is repetitive. Tickets are not a useful means of achieving compliance, as there is no obligation on skateboard users to provide bylaw officers with the required personal information.

The impound provisions for skateboards noted in the Streets and Traffic Bylaw should be eliminated, given the low number of occurrences annually. Eliminating this provision will impact how effectively bylaw officers will be able to achieve compliance; however, the ability to skateboard on-street in the downtown core can be expected to reduce violations for riding on the sidewalk.

Other human-powered devices

To date, users of other types of human powered devices (i.e., roller skates, in-line skates and non-motorized scooters) have not presented any concerns. Transportation Division staff estimate that these other modes of transportation represent less than 1% of all trips taken within the city. Although not forming part of Council's direction, it would appear that any bylaw changes with regard to skateboards could also apply to the operation of other human powered devices in the downtown core.

Options and Impacts

Option 1 – Status quo

Under this option, the prohibition against the use of skateboards and other human-powered

devices in the downtown core would remain in place. The authority to impound skateboards and other human-powered devices would also remain.

Impacts:

- will continue to limit ability of individuals to use skateboards as a mode of travel throughout the city

Option 2 – Direct staff to bring forward bylaw amendments for Council consideration

Under this option, staff would bring forward amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw for Council approval that would allow the use of skateboards and other human-powered devices on roadways throughout the city. Users of human-powered devices would be required to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists. The authority to impound skateboards and other human-powered devices being used in contravention of the Streets and Traffic Bylaw would be eliminated.

Building on the preliminary awareness of proposed changes, a formal opportunity for broader public feedback would be provided before Council makes a final decision on any bylaw changes. Staff would seek feedback for a short period following GPC approval, and share the results prior to Council considering the proposed bylaw amendments.

Feedback from the public would be collected through an online survey hosted on HaveYourSayVictoria.com. Outreach to stakeholders to ensure groups such as downtown business owners, downtown residents, skateboarders, City youth programmers, motorists and transportation companies are aware of the opportunity to provide feedback on permitting skateboarders on streets in the downtown core.

Background information and feedback collected through preliminary conversations would be available online to provide community members with the information they require to submit informed feedback.

Information on how the public's feedback would be used, on-going updates, survey findings and the updated Streets and Traffic Bylaw would be shared with stakeholders through HaveYourSayVictoria.com.

If approved, a coordinated education campaign for the summer of 2015 would be proposed to raise awareness of the bylaw changes, and encourage responsible and safe skateboarding and cycling in the downtown, including information about not conducting either activity on sidewalks. Education would also focus on raising awareness that skateboarding and bicycle use is not permitted on downtown sidewalks. Reported incidents and concerns associated with use of downtown streets by individuals on skateboards and other human powered devices would be closely monitored in order to assess any negative impacts associated with the bylaw changes.

Impacts:

- will allow individuals to use human powered devices to travel throughout the city
- may lead to a reduction in pedestrian/skateboarder conflicts on sidewalks in the downtown core
- may lead to an increase in skateboarder/vehicle conflicts on streets in the downtown core

Recommendation

- 1) That Council direct staff to provide a formal opportunity for broader public feedback on the following proposed amendments to the Streets and Traffic Bylaw:
 - a) Removing the current prohibition against the use of skateboards and other human powered devices on roadways within the downtown core and the 2300 block Trent Street. The current prohibition against the use of bicycles, skateboards and other human powered devices on sidewalks throughout the city would remain in place.
 - b) Requiring users of skateboards and other human powered devices travelling on city streets to follow the same rules of the road as cyclists, and
 - c) Eliminating impound provisions specific to skateboards or other human-powered device.
- 2) That Staff report back to Council in January 2015 with public feedback and proposed changes to the bylaw.

Appendix A – Map of Skateboard-Prohibited Area



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Appendix B – Streets and Traffic Bylaw Excerpts

Definitions

4 In this Bylaw

“human powered device”

means a skateboard, roller skates, in-line skates, or a non-motorized scooter;

Objects prohibited on streets

102 (1) Without limiting the generality of subsections 101,

- (a) a person must not place, or cause or permit to be placed or left on, above or in a street, sidewalk or other public place any of the following items:
 - (i) an object, obstruction or other thing that is or is likely to be a nuisance, or
 - (ii) a sign, as defined in the Sign Bylaw.
 - (b) a person who owns, controls, or possesses an item referred to in paragraph (a) must not permit or cause it to remain on, above or in a street, sidewalk or other public place.
 - (c) a person must not place or cause or permit to be placed on, above or in a street, sidewalk, or other public place waste matter of any description, including without limitation, litter, rubbish, garbage, offal, filth, or any noxious, offensive or unwholesome substance or matter;
 - (d) a person must not distribute or deliver, or cause or permit to be distributed or delivered in or near any street, sidewalk, or other public place, a pamphlet or any other printed or written matter for the purpose of publicizing an event, fact, product, or thing if the probable result of that action is
 - (i) the matter will be discarded on a street, sidewalk, or other public place by a person receiving the matter, or
 - (ii) passage in or on a street will be impeded or obstructed.
- (2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to any of the following persons or objects:
- (a) employees or agents of the City while they are acting in the course of their employment;
 - (b) articles of trade or commerce lawfully in a street or other public place;
 - (c) a portable sign permitted under section 102A of this Bylaw;

- (d) works for which a permit is issued under section 102 or 106 of this Bylaw or under a bylaw passed under section 14 of the *Victoria City Act, 1919*.
- (3) The Director of Engineering, a person authorized by the Director of Engineering, or a member of a police force, on behalf of the City may cause the removal, detention or impounding of an object, obstruction, or thing unlawfully occupying a portion of a street or public place.
- (4) After the detention, removal or impoundment of an object, obstruction, or thing a person entitled to its possession may obtain its release by
 - (a) signing an undertaking that the person will not again place it on, above, or in any street, sidewalk or other public place in contravention of this section, and
 - (b) paying the city the fees prescribed in subsection (5).
- (5) For each detention, removal, and impoundment under subsection (3), the person entitled to possession of an object, obstruction, or thing must pay to the City the applicable fees prescribed in Schedule H.
- (6) As soon as is possible, the Director of Engineering must cause a detained object to be sold, by public auction, to the highest bidder if
 - (a) the person entitled to the possession of the object, within 30 days of its detention, including the date of detention, does not satisfy the requirements of subsections (4) and (5), and
 - (b) it appears to the Director of Engineering that the object has market value.
- (7) The Director of Engineering must cause a detained object to be discarded as garbage if
 - (a) the person entitled to the possession of the object, within 30 days of its detention, including the date of detention, does not satisfy the requirements of subsections (4) and (5), and
 - (b) it appears to the Director of Engineering that the object has no market value.
- (8) The City's Corporate Administrator must apply the proceeds of an auction sale held under this section in the following manner:
 - (a) firstly, deduct the costs of the auction;
 - (b) secondly, deduct the fees payable to the City under subsection (4);
 - (c) finally, pay the surplus, if any, to the person entitled to possession if that person's identity and location are known.

- (9) The Corporate Administrator must apply the surplus referred to in subsection (8)(c) in the following manner if the identity or location of the person entitled to the surplus is not known:
- (a) hold the surplus for one year from the date of the auction;
 - (b) pay the amount of the surplus into the City's General Revenue if the surplus is not claimed within one year from the date of the auction.
- (10) An amount paid into General Revenue under subsection (9)(b) is forfeited to the City.
- (11) An action taken under this section does not preclude the prosecution of a person who contravenes a provision of this Bylaw.

Skating on sidewalk

- 115** (1) A person must not ride a human powered device on a sidewalk.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), a person must not ride a human powered device on a street or path in a public place where signs are displayed stating that the street or path is for pedestrian use only.
- (3) A person must not ride a human powered device on a street or path within the area bounded
- (a) on the west by the west side of Wharf Street and the east side of Store Street,
 - (b) on the north by the south side of Herald Street and North Park Street,
 - (c) on the east by the east side of Quadra Street, and
 - (d) on the south by the south side of Fairfield Road, the east side of Blanshard Street, and the south side of Belleville Street.
- (4) Sections 99(3) to (11) apply to the removal, detention and impoundment of a human powered device that is being ridden in contravention of this section on a street, sidewalk, or path within
- (a) the area set out in subsection (3), or
 - (b) the 2300 block of Trent Street.

Schedule H

Streets and Traffic Bylaw

Detention, removal and impoundment fees

1. The detention and removal fees, shown in the second column of the following table, that correspond to the weight or type of the item shown in the first column, are payable under subsection 102((4) of this bylaw:

<u>Weight or Type</u>	<u>Detention & Removal Fee</u>
65 kg or less	\$25.00 for a first detention or removal \$100.00 for a second or subsequent detention or removal
over 65 kg	\$40.00 for a first detention or removal \$100.00 for a second or subsequent detention or removal
human powered device	\$25.00

2. The impoundment fees, shown in the second column of the following table, that correspond to the weight or type of the item shown in the first column, are payable under subsection 102(5) of this bylaw:

<u>Weight or Type</u>	<u>Impoundment Fee</u>
65 kg or less	\$5.00 per day, including the first day
over 65 kilograms	\$7.00 per day including the first day
human powered device	\$2.00 per day including the first day

Appendix C – Written Feedback from Stakeholders

In our opinion there are far too many regulations that infringe on the freedom of patrons in Downtown. I have no idea why the city feels they have the right to limit a persons options on how they travel from place to place. Any form of travel other then cars should be celebrated not prohibited or limited in any way. We need far less rules and more education with regards to patrons acting with consideration and respect of others. The city needs to empower others to make the right decisions regarding their conduct on various modes of transportation not create and enforce archaic bylaws to limit a persons fundamental right and freedom of movement.

Healthy Regards,

Kurtis Brown
Chantelle Pasychny

designHouse Salon
Owners

What is to review ?

The skateboarders go up and down Johnson Street all day and night, in my almost three years I have never seen one of them stopped or even spoken to by any officers.

The boards are noisy, 90% of the riders are disrespectful to pedestrians and vehicle traffic

You can see them going the wrong way down lojo every single day

Keep the law and perhaps start enforcement

In response the the email sent out last week by the DVBA we wanted to let you know that West End Gallery does not support a review of the skate boarding policy and feels very strongly that skate boarding should not be allowed in the downtown core.

Thank you for your time and consideration involving us in this matter.

Sincerely,
Amy

West End Gallery
1203 Broad Street

I would like to support the ban on skateboarding on streets in the downtown area for two reasons:

1. It is alarming for drivers to share streets with skateboarders who are not just using their boards as a fuel-free form of transport, but are making large s-curves across the street and performing other "hot-dogging" moves. It happens quite often that a boarder misses the sidewalk lip and stumbles either onto the street or onto the sidewalk.

2. The wheels on most boards make a terrific amount of noise.

If the by-laws were amended to permit safe use of these devices with enforceable penalties for street riders causing traffic hazard, and if the boards were required to use some kind of noise abatement technology on their wheels, then perhaps law-abiding riders could be permitted to use the streets (never the sidewalks). They would have to do so entirely at their own risk, and should be licensed. They ride without lights or helmets or other body protection. They use no signaling to help other users of streets anticipate their movements and vehicle drivers, bicycle riders and pedestrians cannot be expected to bear the responsibility of any injury or damage caused by collision with these unpredictable moving objects.

Overall, since enforcement of traffic behaviour in the city is insufficient, I continue to fear that young and irresponsible riders will pose a street hazard.

I own and run a technology company in Bastion Square. I'm writing to voice my opposition to the bylaw prohibiting skateboarding downtown.

I've been annoyed at this bylaw for quite some time. Lifestyle factors are a huge reason why we choose to pay high Downtown Victoria rental costs, and every bylaw we add that makes the downtown area less appealing is sure to have an economic impact, either in terms of lost business or businesses locating elsewhere.

As a concrete example, when I was a student at UVic, I used to avoid the downtown core on my way home to James Bay. More recently, when starting up my company, we also looked at locations outside of the downtown core. Frankly, it was because I'd enjoy my commute home from work a lot more if I could take out my longboard. Ultimately the proximity to restaurants and services won out, but the skateboard bylaw was a factor in my consideration.

Though I'm sure the bylaw was carefully considered, it comes off as arbitrary and unfriendly. If it's a matter of traffic downtown, it seems odd to me that skateboards in particular have been singled out. Why not ban scooters too? Bicycles? Groups of tourists who walk more than three abreast?

Count my voice in opposition.

- Bob Warwick
Owner, Whole Punk Creators



1715 Government Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 1Z4
250.386.5503

Shannon Craig
City of Victoria
No.1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

August 5, 2014

Re: Review of Skateboarding in the Downtown Core

Dear Shannon Craig,

The DRA has reviewed the existing bylaw regarding the prohibition of riding skateboards on sidewalks in the City of Victoria and the streets of the Downtown Core (as identified on the map attached with the letter of June 26, 2014). We have also considered the issues of confiscation and impoundment of skateboards.

The following comments are a summary of the opinions offered on the relevant topics.

Environment and Health

- We are all in favour of encouraging and supporting alternative eco-friendly means of transportation, which would include skateboards and rollerblades.
- Skateboarding is a green and active mode of transportation and we don't assume that all skaters will be reckless in their behaviour.

Safety

- We are unanimous in recognising that allowing skateboarding on sidewalks is too dangerous and there are too many opportunities for conflicts between different modes of transportation.
- Allowing skateboards on downtown streets and bike lanes seems like a dangerous compromise. Perhaps if/when we get some protected bike lanes it can be considered.

Traffic Calming and Infrastructure

- Having a greater variety of users in the road can help to calm traffic. For example, vehicles on Pandora frequently speed on the road right before the bridge. Increasing the variety of users on the road will encourage drivers to slow down.
- Allowing skateboarders to travel on the right hand side of the roadway, or where available, travel in bicycle lanes, should be discussed and considered.

Equality

- It is important that public space feels welcoming to all. There are people in our city that can't afford bikes, or other forms of organized sports like hockey, so skateboarding is a financially feasible alternative and it provides people with a sense of community.
- With the current ban in place, it has discouraged these individuals from frequenting downtown as they feel unwelcome. As an example, a mature adult male (and DRA member) was standing and holding his skateboard on Pandora waiting for a ride to the park when a police van pulled up in front of him and over the loud speaker declared "think about riding and you'll loose it". This was an unnecessary negative police interaction.

Enforcement

- Current enforcement seems to disproportionately impact those with limited or low incomes.
- Without a proper legal definition within the bylaw as to when confiscation and impoundment supersedes the issuance of the appropriate fine, the complainants' objections are valid and justified.
- Confiscation of personal property should only be the last resort.
- The following influenced my opinion on the confiscation / impoundment issue: The City of Victoria's "STREETS AND TRAFFIC BYLAW # 09-079" (<http://www.victoria.ca/assets/City~Hall/Bylaws/bylaw-09-079.pdf>), section 115 (1) & (3), essentially states that a person must not ride a human powered device on (1) a sidewalk, or (3) a street, or a path within the downtown core. The following subsection, 115 (4), goes on to state that, "Sections 99(3) to (11) apply to the removal, detention and impoundment of a human powered device that is being ridden in contravention of this section on a street, sidewalk, or path within (a) the area set out in subsection (3)...". Unfortunately, and quite disturbing, is that it appears to me that the referred to "section 99(3) to (11)" in City bylaw 09-079, does not exist (at least not in the copy provided on the City's website).
- Schedule 'F' of City bylaw 09-079, sets out the fines for contravention of section 115 (3) as follows: \$57.50 for 1st contravention, \$67.50 for 2nd contravention, \$102.50 for 3rd or subsequent contravention. So, since there are fines set out for the contravention of the bylaw, at what point does the enforcement officer have the right to confiscate the citizen's personal property?

While we are unanimous in support of a ban on skateboard use on sidewalks, we fully support skateboarding as a healthy, environmentally friendly, alternate form of transportation. Opportunities remain to improve issues around equality, enforcement and infrastructure in relation to skateboarding downtown, so we would support a review and revision of this bylaw. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this issue.

Sincerely,



Wendy Bowkett
Chair
Downtown Residents Association

cc Dwayne Kalynchuk, Engineering and Public Works Department