

# Skateboarding in the Downtown Core





# Council Direction



1) Council directed staff to provide an opportunity for broader public feedback on the following proposed amendments

- Removing the current prohibition against the use of skateboards on roadways within the downtown core and along Trent Street
- Requiring skateboarders travelling on city streets to follow the same rules as cyclists, and
- Eliminating impound provisions specific to skateboards

2) That Staff report back to Council in January 2015 with public feedback and proposed changes to the bylaw.

# Downtown Core

City of Victoria Streets and Traffic Bylaw  
Section 115 - Skating on Sidewalk  
115(3) - Human powered device prohibited area





# Public Input Overview



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 indicate the non-skateboarding public is generally supportive of allowing skateboarding on downtown streets



# Public Input Overview

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The majority of respondents 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

If bylaw changes are implemented, a communications program will be developed to increase public understanding around how skateboarders can operate in the downtown core



# Stakeholder feedback



In Phase One the City:

- Consulted with the Victoria Police Department
- Sought feedback from the Downtown Victoria Business Association and Downtown Residents' Association
- Met with a local skateboard advocate who had organized a petition
- Correspondence and presentations to Council regarding skateboarding downtown and feedback previously received during Official Community Plan consultations were also reviewed.



# Stakeholder feedback

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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
- an increase in public safety



# Stakeholder feedback

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Possible negative impacts of allowing skateboards in the downtown include:

- a decrease in skateboarder and public safety, and
- an increase in noise
- possible conflicts with cyclists





# 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.



# Recommendation

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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.

# Questions from Council

