

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

APRIL 22, 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Highway 97 and 30th Avenue Crosswalk

At the April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting, Council inquired about collisions and near misses with pedestrians at Highway 97 and 30th Avenue.

Near misses are typically not reported to the RCMP or ICBC, so there is no data available.

Since May 2019, there were approximately 16 collisions at this intersection. Half of them involved a pedestrian, cyclist, or scooter rider.

Administration is working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on the upcoming Transportation Plan and will include options to improve active transportation safety along both Highway 6 and Highway 97 in the Plan.

Highway 97 Vernon Traffic Management Study

At the April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting, Council inquired about the status of the highway corridor studies. The Highway 97 Vernon Traffic Management Study was last updated in July 2015, and is summarized on pages 16-19 of the [Master Transportation Plan](#). Most of the minor improvement recommendations, such as changing signs and signals, have been completed. None of the capital project recommendations, such as changing lane configurations at intersections or adding a traffic signal at 35th Avenue, have been completed. The majority of these capital projects fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The traffic improvements recommended by this study will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the new Transportation Plan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

OPERATION SERVICES

Stormwater Drainage Bylaw

Administration has a draft Stormwater Drainage Bylaw that is being coordinated with interfacing bylaws. Administration will present this bylaw to Council at the May 27, 2024 meeting. The current draft of the bylaw includes the ability of the City to fine up to \$50,000 for violations of the bylaw.

Infrastructure Projects Update 2019-2023

The Infrastructure Project Update 2019-2023 report is currently being coordinated between various internal divisions and will be presented to Council at the May 27, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

Deer Park ([Project 2019-22](#))

The playground area is open. The contractor will be on site to address deficiencies related to the tennis court in late April for paving and May for the surface coating. Work will take place when ambient temperatures allow for the application of the tennis court surface coating.

Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure - Girouard Park Path ([Project 2024-22](#))

Girouard Park path connection from 43rd Avenue to Girouard Park has been completed.



BX Sediment Pond ([Project 2019-2](#))

The BX Sedimentation Pond project was completed in 2022. As part of the approval process for the project, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans required a significant amount of riparian planting. The contractor that constructed the project will be weeding and replacing dead plants this spring as part of the warranty agreement.

FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

Bus Shelter Fires and Downtown Public Washrooms

During the Regular Council Meeting of April 8, 2024, Council inquired about the number of fires in bus shelters and the magnitude of cost for repair. Council also inquired about the number of overdose calls in the downtown bus exchange washrooms (31st St. and 31 Ave.) and the public washrooms near Nature's Fare (35th St. and 30th Ave.). Due to how this information is collected, it is not possible to provide a precise quantitative answer. Our response "heat maps" provide a general picture of where certain types of calls are occurring.

From January 1, 2024 until April 8, 2024 these maps indicate the following:

- The highest concentration of fires is located between 32nd St. & 35th St. from 25th Ave. to Coldstream Ave. (City wide total fires as of April 12, 2024 is 86)
- The highest concentration of overdose/man down calls is located along 25th Ave. focused near 34th St. and 37th St. (total overdose/man down calls as of April 12, 2024 is 244)

Conversation with firefighters provided the following qualitative information:

- We do respond to fires in bus stops with some frequency. There have been at least two (2) fires in the bus shelter located near the Upper Room Mission. Another recently occurred at the 3700 block of 33rd St., where the bench was burned. Often the fires are small and not a lot of damage occurs.
- There have been minor fires in the downtown washroom near Nature's Fare where toilet paper and other combustibles have been set on fire.
- There have been overdoses in and around both the washrooms near Nature's Fare and those near the bus exchange.

As of April 12, 2024 VFRS, has responded to a total of 1286 calls for service.