

Victoria Avenue Corridor Review
Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
St. Frances School

Facilitator:

- Mark Emmons

City of Saskatoon Representatives:

- Jay Magus, Marina Melchiorre, Chelsea Lanning, Justine Nyen, Brock Storey

Councillor Block attended.

Agenda

- Welcome & introductions
- Presentation from the Transportation Division
- Question / Answers
- Opportunity for one-on-one question / answers

Presentation from Transportation Division – Victoria Avenue Corridor Review
(Presented by Chelsea Lanning – Transportation Engineer and Jay Magus – Transportation Engineer)

Presentation Outline:

- Study Area
- Objective
- Study Approach
- Framework
- Considerations
- Corridor Design
- Description of Proposed Design Elements
- Schedule
- Next Steps
- Questions

Project Schedule:

- Review and Design – February to May 2017
- Public Feedback collected – March 16 to March 30, 2017
- Report to Standing Policy Committee on Transportation – Mar 8, 2017
- Report to Council – May 23, 2017
- Construction begins Summer 2017
- Monitoring after the Traffic Bridge reopens

Question & Answer

Resident: Lives at Victoria Place (Victoria Ave and 11th St) and is concerned with many suites and vehicles. Sightlines are poor at Victoria Ave and 11th St. Were traffic signals considered?

City: Traffic signals were not warranted when the bridge was open but we will keep monitoring and will maintain pedestrian movements.

Resident: It's difficult to make left turns at Victoria Ave and 11th St and is particularly a problem with the parking garage.

City: We will continue to monitor.

Saskatoon Cycles Rep: Will there be any pavement markings or signs at 8th St and Victoria Ave to help cyclists navigate on and off the cycle track?

City: The design is conceptual at this time. When we get into the detailed design portion we will look at how best to accomplish those transitions.

Resident: Where does the project end?

City: The project ends at 11th St. Victoria Ave from 11th St to downtown is part to the Victoria Bridge Project. The bridge will have sharrows on the driving lanes and three meter wide multi-use paths. Saskatchewan Cr to 11th St will have bike lanes and sidewalks.

Resident: Will the centre median remain the same?

City: Yes, and parking will be maintained on Victoria Ave.

Resident – will the grade on the hill between Saskatchewan Cr and 11th St remain the same?

City: A link to the Traffic Bridge project page for that project is as follows:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/business-development/major-projects/current-projects/north-commuter-parkway-traffic-bridge-replacement-project>

Resident: Parking on Victoria Ave and walking across the bridge to work downtown for the day could become an issue. Can there be a two hour time limit?

City: The city has a Residential Parking Program (RPP) and Limited Residential Parking Program (LRPP) that can be looked into. A link to the information on our webpage is as follows: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/moving-around/parking/parking-programs-permits/residential-parking-permits>.

Resident: Grade at 11th St causes a blind hill for pedestrian crossing.

Resident: Cycle track connections to the bridge and 8th St are important.

City: We need to work on having clear transitions. Some of the work is beyond the scope of this project but we will take a look at these things through other programs like the Downtown Cycling Plan.

Resident: I commend the City of Saskatoon for a great job. I want to add the comment that the boulevard is prone to flooding and those curbs may need some attention.

Resident: Is this a school zone or should it be?

City: It is a school zone and will remain in place at this location. One of the reasons for proposing the installation of the pedestrian activated signal is that Nutana Collegiate is on that corner.

Resident: Kids are crossing Victoria Ave to get to school at Main St or 10th St for Victoria School and it's difficult to see kids.

City: The proposed plan includes narrowed streets to reduce speed, maintaining the pedestrian activated corridor at Main St, reducing from two traffic lanes to one southbound which all benefit pedestrian safety. We will consider a crossing at 10th St as we move forward with our design as well as other intersection improvements.

Resident: 11th St isn't great with the hill making it blind. A pedestrian activated signal could give the perception that it's safe to cross and people might not stop. Please make sure sightlines are good.

Resident: Will public transportation be on Victoria Ave?

City: Transit is not planned on Victoria Avenue at this time.

Resident: Have you considered curb extensions for pedestrian crossings?

City: We will take that into consideration. We are still in the planning stages.

Resident: What are the volumes on Victoria Ave right now?

City: We don't have those numbers on hand but it is quite low.

Resident: Will you be able to access the bridge from Saskatchewan Cr?

City: Loops will be similar to what they were before. A link to the conceptual plan can be found here:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/tb_functional_plan_20151014.pdf

Resident: Victoria Ave is narrowing? Victoria Ave and Main St have lots of parking in the evening very close to intersections and you can't see pedestrians.

City: The pedestrian activated signal helps to make pedestrians more visible to motorists.

Resident: Will there be an effect from construction on the river slope failure?

City: No effect.

Resident: When it's icy in the winter it will be difficult to stop at the pedestrian activated signal at 11th St.

Resident: When there is a decision about whether or not to install the pedestrian activated signal at 11th St can you include a summary of the reasons why that decision was made? Include why it might be moved to another location or remain there?

City: Yes, we will include that information.

Resident: How much will the project cost?

City: The budget is approximately 2 million for all of the work including water and sewer and roadworks.

Councillor Block: We have federal money to do a lot of this work.

City: This is a great opportunity for us because we can coordinate this work and ultimately save money.

Resident: When 8th St was re-done everything was left/replaced as is, so when you get to 8th St there are no makings. Will this project be the template for other corridors?

City: We have federal funding through the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project on 8th St. This includes pedestrian crossings, transit stops/stations, etc. 8th St is part of the Growth Plan and will be reviewed as a corridor through that project.

Resident: Narrower streets makes visibility worse. I'm concerned about pedestrian crossings. Also, I'm concerned about sharing the bridge sidewalks with pedestrians and cyclists – can one side be for cyclists and one side be for pedestrians?

City: The bridge pathways are wider than what we have on the other bridges and will follow the same rules as all other bridge pathways where space is shared between pedestrians and cyclists.

** Please note that questions relating to the water and sewer project have been forwarded to that department.