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Fact Sheet

Skateboarding as green transportation in Vernon, BC

Fact #1: The City of Vernon currently promotes skateboarding as “green transportation” on their website.

In 2015 the city’s Long Range Planner, Cleo Corbett, made this comment on the [vernon.ca](http://www.vernon.ca) website:

“[We] want to help people get to destinations... self-propelled, like biking or skateboarding.”

Fact #2: Vernon’s Master Transportation Plan has goals to increase alternative transportation usage

Fact #3: Vernon’s bylaws currently allows roller skating, rollerblading, Segways, hover boards, and mobility scooters on sidewalks. But not skateboards.

Bylaws prohibit skateboard use on both sidewalks and roadways. Section 309 disallows skateboards and roller-skates on roadways (which makes sense)

But Section 801 goes on to prohibit skateboards on sidewalks (while allowing roller skates, rollerblades, Segways, and mobility scooters):

Section 801: No person shall operate a bicycle or a skateboard upon any sidewalk unless so authorized by the Manager, Bylaw Enforcement.

Fact #4: There are no stats that show that skateboarding *as transportation* is any more dangerous to pedestrians than rollerskates, rollerblades, Segways, or mobility scooters

There are **no** reliable statistics that show that skateboarding is inherently more dangerous than other forms of wheeled transportation. As mentioned in Tess Walker's masters dissertation, "skating tends to incur moral and literal policing," despite the lack of facts to back it up.¹

"If the data on the safety of bicycle riding on sidewalks is sparse, then it is non-existent for skateboarding.

*From the Downtown Ambassadors' observations, **bicycles on sidewalks are a greater issue than skateboards.**"*²

- Olympia City Council

Fact #5: Progressive, green municipalities are moving to legalize skateboarding on sidewalks

Portland, Oregon has a particularly good policy:

It is legal to skate on any street or sidewalk in the city 24 hours a day.³

Similarly, Seattle has a well-written bylaw:

Every person using a skateboard or roller-skates upon any sidewalk or public path shall use the same in a careful and prudent manner and at a rate of speed no greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions existing at the point of operation, taking into account the amount and character of pedestrian traffic, grade and width of sidewalk or public path, and condition of surface, and shall obey all traffic-control devices. Every person using a skateboard or rollerskates upon a sidewalk or public path shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian thereon.

(Ord. 113546 Section 1, 1987.)

¹ <http://gradworks.umi.com/15/50/1550586.html>

² http://olympiawa.gov/~media/Files/PublicWorks/Transportation/SidewalkBikingSkateboardingDT_WhitePaper.pdf

³ <https://skatefriendlypdx.wordpress.com/skate-law/>