

SGI Driver Handbook Updates

ISSUE

This report provides a summary of the Administration's discussions with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) about its Saskatchewan Driver's Handbook and SGI's plans to include education about cycling.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on June 12, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation considered the Transportation 2016 Annual Report, and resolved, in part:

- "2. That the Administration report back on the possibility of Driver Education adding cycling safety education for driver training, as a means to support the City's Active Transportation Plan;"

SGI's Driver Development section responded on September 4, 2019 acknowledging that the Administration's concerns regarding cyclist safety would be considered when the annual review of the handbook took place in June 2020.

At its meeting held on October 7, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation received an information [report](#) on SGI's response to the City of Saskatoon's request to improve cycling safety education for driver training.

Administration followed up with SGI in July 2020 on the updates made to the handbook and SGI responded that the update was mostly small changes, with no changes being made to the Share the Road section.

At its Regular Business Meeting held on June 28, 2023, City Council passed the following motion:

- "6. That Administration be directed to have discussion with SGI about its driver handbook and report back on SGI's plans to include education about cycling and this concern along with the 2019 Standing Policy Committee on Transportation report be shared with SUMA via our representatives on the board."

At its meeting held on May 7, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation heard from speakers Kevin Robertson and Tod Fox about cycling safety and culture and received the information.

CURRENT STATUS

On September 21, 2023, via an email to SGI, the Administration shared the summary provided to SGI in 2019 that outlined the Administration's recommendation that the following topics (identified through a jurisdictional scan of other Canadian driver's handbooks) be considered for inclusion in the next update to the Saskatchewan Driver's Handbook:

1. A detailed list of motorist and cyclist responsibilities.
2. More detailed direction guiding motorists on how to observe and to interact with people riding bicycles:
 - a. How to avoid common car-bicycle collisions during right and left turning movements.
 - b. How to safely pass people riding bicycles and understand their position on the road.
3. Strategies for people riding bicycles on being visible, signalling, turning and lane changing.

SGI responded a few days later and indicated that the next update to the handbook would be the spring of 2024.

On January 15, 2024, the Administration met with SGI to discuss any updates to the handbook.

On February 26, 2024, SGI provided the Administration with a list of proposed edits to the handbook.

On March 7, 2024, the Administration provided SGI with comments on their list of proposed edits to the handbook. The comments can be summarized as follows:

- Consider elaborating on how to properly pass a cyclist that is traveling on the street.
- Consider elaborating on how bikes are vehicles and are subject to the same traffic control.
- Consider discussing all cyclist hand signals.
- Consider having more information/discussion on common collision types and how to prevent them.
- Consider including more graphics to supplement the text to help people understand the guidance, especially those with English as a second language.
- Consider including in the handbook (or developing a supplemental guide) on cyclist safety equipment and cycling riding information.

On April 16, 2024, the Administration provided SGI with a review of other driver handbooks from Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island. An example of the comments provided is included in Appendix 1.

On April 29, 2024, the Administration met with SGI to discuss any questions regarding the Administration comments and timeframes of the update. SGI indicated they would consider the Administration's feedback but made no commitment to include or make changes to the handbook based on the information provided.

On July 31, 2024, SGI sent an email outlining the intended cycling updates to the handbook. The update includes the addition of basic guidance for motorists on how to interact with cyclists in the Share the Road section of the handbook. None of the Administration's comments were incorporated in the final draft of the handbook.

SGI indicated the print version would be available on September 1, 2024. An online version of the updated handbook can be viewed at https://sgi.sk.ca/handbook/-/knowledge_base/drivers/sharing-the-road.

SGI communicated that they also support cyclist safety through outreach partner organizations, community grants that fund bike safety promotion items, a K-1 education program and social media posts.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The updated handbook has incorporated some of the Administration's recommendations.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications. The privacy, legal, social and environmental implications have not been assessed at this time.

NEXT STEPS

Through regular and ongoing discussions with SGI, as opportunities arise, Administration will continue to advocate for inclusion of additional information on cycling safety education in future reviews of the SGI Driver's Handbook and driver training programs.

APPENDICES

1. Example City of Saskatoon Comments on ICBC Learn to Drive Smart Guide

Report Approval

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