

City of Chilliwack
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024, 3:30 pm
Dogwood Room / Held Electronically

Council Members: Councillor Jason Lum, Vice-Chair

TAC Members: Bryden Nelmes, Community Member
Brent Bowker, Community Member
Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Wayne Williams, SD33, Manager of Transportation
Constable Matthew Wright, RCMP
Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit
Ann McNabb, Community Member
David Adimora, Director, Chamber of Commerce (Alternate)

City Staff Members: Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage
Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist
Jennifer Hahn, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Human Resources
Baldeep Litt, Engineering Technician
Kristi May, Administrative Assistant

Regrets: Councillor Jeff Shields, Chair
David Hill, ICBC
Corporal Mike Sabulsky, Acting NCO i/c RCMP, Traffic Section
Margaret Reid, Board of Education, Chilliwack School District #33
Marlon Hall, Chamber of Commerce
Neal Moulton, Area Manager, Fraser Valley South, Ministry of Transportation

Guests: Jane Bicycle, Climate Change Action Group
Rakel Byrnes, Healthy Built Environment Program
Healthy Environments & Climate Change
Andriana (Andie) Lanji, Regional Community Health Specialist (Fraser East), Active Living
Tobin Copley, Lead, Injury Prevention & Safety Promotion—Fraser Health Region

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lum called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm and provided territorial acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda of the Transportation Advisory Committee held Thursday,
Seconded (June 20, 2024, be amended by adding Update on Capital Projects to Section 5, Item #2; and further, that the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda held Thursday,
Seconded (April 18, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION

BC Transit Update

Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit, provided a verbal update regarding the following transit items:

Ridership

Ridership continues to be strong across the province with a trend of approximately 105-110% above pre-Covid ridership. The central Fraser Valley and Chilliwack are bucking the trend and are still within the 120-140% of pre-Covid ridership.

The Fraser Valley Express (FVX), Route 66 is at a critical ridership level currently with a significant increase in ridership, particularly in the Abbotsford portion from the Lougheed Sky Train Station to Highstreet Mall and the Carvolth Exchange in Langley. The handyDART expansion was approved and is still moving forward with additional hours of service; however, Conventional transit expansion for Chilliwack was not approved. BC Transit has been looking at allocating additional resources to meet the demand. Challenges include an unprecedented amount of expansion requests and fleet procurement of up to 24 months for new buses.

Facility Update

An update was provided regarding the purchase of property BC Transit has purchased on Progress Way in Chilliwack for a future transit facility. Capacity remains an issue in the current facility; there is still room to maintain some additional buses, but the facility is almost at parking capacity.

Projects

- Facility Masterplan
- Short term bus parking until the new facility is converted in 2026-2027

BC Transit is considering a fare structure review in the region soon.

A summary was presented of BC Transit's funding model whereby the Province sets out the priorities for BC Transit. BC Transit is the provincial Crown agency that coordinates the delivery of public transportation across BC. Service is provided through a partnership between BC Transit, local government, and a contracted transit management company.

Members discussed the impacts of the lack of expansion of transit buses on school students, the start date of the extended hours for handyDART, and the process of re-submitting or applying for transit expansion funding for increased hours. R. Ringma provided clarification regarding the process of the three-year Transit Improvement Program (TIP).

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION (continued)

Comment was provided regarding whether student ridership data is factored into BC Transit ridership data. R. Ringma explained how the BC Transit UMO electronic payment system does not track personal information; however, it allows for robust data to be collected such as how many student monthly passes are purchased, how many times those passes are utilized, and what time of day the passes were used. The School District will connect with BC Transit to discuss this further. D. Mossey cautioned that any reduction in school bus capacity would directly affect the transit system negatively.

Discussion ensued regarding the implications of the new legislative changes brought forward by the Province concerning the Transit-Oriented Areas (TOA) whereby there is now a minimum residential density required around a Transit-Oriented area.

Vice-Chair Lum expressed his frustration concerning the lack of transit funding. He also suggested that the City's current 2024 transit expansion funding could be rolled over to next year in order to potentially compound transit expansion in 2025.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**1. Free Transit for Seniors and Youth**

Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage, and Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist, provided a presentation with respect to fare free transit for youth and seniors, including the history of the request and past UBCM resolutions.

A summary of the presentation is provided below:

- Impacts of fare free service
- What fare free service may not do
- Current supports for seniors / youth
- Should Chilliwack support this motion
- Saanich's proposed language
- Total income visualization BC
- Recommended action.

The committee discussed how the lack of transit may contribute to employment challenges and shortages of workers, particularly for students trying to find transportation to work and the true ridership data for students between the ages of 12 and 18. Comment was provided concerning ridership barriers such as bus frequency and transit fares, and whether free ridership for event days may be considered. Staff noted the benefits of a fare-free system are often seen in more robust transit systems.

2. Capital Projects Update

Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage, provided an update on the following Capital Projects:

1. Tyson - Keith Wilson Design-Build Project / Multi-Use Pathway– completion in spring 2025
2. Mary Street Cycling Improvements -completion in August 2024
3. Knight Road Cycling Improvements – completion in October 2024

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)

4. Edwards Street Sidewalk – completion in October 2024
5. Yale Road Multi-Use Pathway – completion in September 2024
6. Luckakuck Way – new intersection and Multi-Use Pathway north side of Luckakuck
7. Pedestrian Crossing Improvements - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) – seven completed and four more planned for 2024
8. Downtown Breezeway & Yale Road Crosswalk – completion in September 2024
9. Victoria Avenue Parking Lot (Phase 2) - expected completion in 2024 (awaiting archeological permit).

A query was raised with respect to the status of the Prest Road culvert work. The City is currently awaiting provincial permit approvals and the anticipated completion date is 2025. An enquiry was raised regarding the status of the Williams Street Pedestrian Bridge; staff noted the pre-design process is currently underway with completion in 2026.

Clarification was requested regarding whether the new parkade at Young and Princess is public or private parking; staff noted the parkade is associated with the District 1881 development and is private.

3. Residential Speed Limit Reduction

Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist, provided a presentation concerning residential speed limit reduction.

A brief breakdown of the presentation included the following:

- History of How Speed Limits Were Set
- Current Speed Limits
- Factors in Setting Speed Limits
- Speed Limit Reductions
- Speed Limit Reductions – In Practice (Edmonton, Calgary & Surrey)
- Additional Review
- Options to Consider
- If Speed Limits Were Reduced.

Discussion ensued regarding the speed limit reduction studies conducted in Surrey, Edmonton and Calgary. Constable Wright, RCMP, noted that most collisions in Chilliwack occur on major arterial roads, major corridors and in major intersections, not necessarily where speed limits would be reduced. Comment was provided concerning drivers who fail to stop when school buses have their red lights flashing. Constable Wright, RCMP, noted that the RCMP works closely with the School Board regarding this issue.

Discussion ensued regarding speed reduction signage, data such as number of collisions, and various other factors including driver behavior and route changes. Staff noted the Graphic Information Systems (GIS) Department is working on gathering more ICBC data to incorporate into the City of Chilliwack's data.

Staff will review the residential speed limit reduction further, however they recommended that the committee wait until staff completes the sign inventory project and for the Best Practices for *Operations of Low Speed Collector and Arterial Roads* be published by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) in the summer of 2025. The committee was amenable to tabling this discussion.

Vice-Chair Lum received a phone call during the meeting from Member of Legislative Services, Dan Coulter. Chair Lum provided a summary of the conversation held whereby MLA Coulter noted that BC Transit is considering re-assessing the request for increased transit hours for Chilliwack.

6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

7. OTHER

8. INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE

9. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is on Thursday, October 3, 2024.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Chair