

City of Chilliwack
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023, 3:30 pm
Dogwood Room / Held Electronically

Council Members: Councillor Jeff Shields, Co-Chair
Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair

TAC Members: Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit
Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Constable Mike Sabulsky, Acting NCO i/c RCMP, Traffic Section
Margaret Reid, Board of Education, Chilliwack School District #33
Marlon Hall, Chamber of Commerce
Wayne Williams, SD33, Manager of Transportation
Bryden Nelmes, Community Member
Ann McNabb, Community Member
Brent Bowker, Community Member

City Staff Members: Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage
Kara Jefford, Director of Engineering
Colette McDiarmid, Supervisor - Roads, Transportation, Drainage & Dyking
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Neal Moulton, Area Manager, Fraser Valley South, Ministry of Transportation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Jeff Shields called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm and provided territorial acknowledgment.

Councillor Shields welcomed the new members and round table introductions were made.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda for Thursday, February 23,
Seconded (2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda held Thursday,
Seconded (September 22, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**1. BC Transit Update**

Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit, provided background information with respect to his role with BC Transit.

The following update was presented:

Ridership Recovery

BC Transit has been working on ridership recovery since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 when ridership dramatically declined. Ridership across the province is up approximately 90% pre-Covid levels.

To provide a comparison to Chilliwack, the Central Fraser Valley (CFV) system which includes Abbotsford and Mission has reflected similar ridership levels in 2020 and 2021; however, in 2022 ridership in the Central Fraser Valley has on occasion exceeded the 2019 numbers. In the first few months of 2023, ridership levels in the Central Fraser Valley have been exceeding the 2019 pre-Covid numbers by approximately 110% on average.

At the end of 2022, Chilliwack ridership levels were at or exceeding the 2019 pre-Covid levels. The first seven weeks of 2023 reflect a continued increase in ridership recovery, above the 2019 ridership levels.

The Fraser Valley Express (FVX), Route 66 that ran from Chilliwack to the Carvolth Exchange in Langley extended its service in March 2022 and now runs through to the Lougheed Skytrain Station in Burnaby. Since the implementation of the extension, BC Transit has seen significantly more growth in FVX ridership than both the CFV and Chilliwack, particularly between High Street Mall in Abbotsford and the Lougheed Skytrain Station. With the increased ridership, there have been some challenges with respect to increased capacity, particularly from High Street Mall in Abbotsford to Lougheed Skytrain Station. BC Transit is currently working with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) to propose some options in the next few months to rectify the issues.

Next Ride – Smart Bus Technology

A brief summary was provided with respect to Next Ride, the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology (GPS's) that allows customers to go onto their Transit App and see where their bus is in real time and conduct their transit planning in real time. Other features include a visual public information display (PID) inside all buses which visibly show the next stop, and audio announcements both internally and externally on the bus. NextRide 2.0 includes automated passenger counters, ridership data, and CCTV cameras installed on the interior and exterior of each bus. Next Ride technology provides bus location data to mobility providers (ie Transit App and Google Maps) and, by downloading the Transit App, customers know exactly when their bus will arrive, how full a bus is at any given time and if the bus is running on time.

An overview of the breakdown of the Next Ride data was presented including On Time Performance by time of day and by routes.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)Electric Fare Program Upgrade

Phase 1 of the Electric Fare Program upgrade will provide a more accessible and convenient way for passengers to pay for travel such as through a mobile app, debit card, credit card, mobile wallet, reloadable smart card or Apple watch.

Phase 2 will allow riders to be able to easily purchase their desired fare product with their mobile device, through a new web portal or at a retailer and board the bus by simply scanning their mobile device or tapping their credit or debit card. The Electric Fare Program will reduce the number of transfers between different systems. Cash will continue to be accepted for those riders who prefer to use it. BC Transit is continuing to explore ways to integrate their fare system with TransLink and BC Ferries, anticipated in Phase 2. The expected timeline for the roll-out of the Electric Fare Program in Chilliwack is anticipated for summer 2023.

Job Action

Mr. Ringma advised that BC Transit is notifying its riders that CUPE Local 561 operating under First Transit has indicated increasing job action and will cease service in the Agassiz-Harrison, Central Fraser Valley, Chilliwack and Hope transit systems at the start of the scheduled service on February 27, 2023, to the end of service on February 28, 2023. HandyDART will remain in full operation. BC Transit is closely monitoring the situation and will keep the City of Chilliwack staff apprised of the situation.

General Discussion

Comment was provided with respect to transit improvements and whether the Transit Future Action Plan (TFAP) will still be considered for the next Provincial budget cycle. Mr. Ringma provided a brief background with respect to the TFAP regarding the budget process and the key priorities identified within the Chilliwack Transit System. BC Transit is waiting for February 28, 2023, when the Provincial Budget is announced with respect to any of the transit improvement options.

An enquiry was made as to the status of the pilot program to allow students free ridership on transit; Mr. Ringma provided an update with respect to the status of the 'Get on Board! – Kids 12 and Under Ride for Free' program. To date, there has been no formal announcement on further expansion of this program; however, BC Transit is waiting for more information after the Provincial Budget announcement next week. A follow-up query was made regarding whether BC Transit has data with respect to the percentage of that ridership; Mr. Ringma noted the current Electronic Fare technology does not allow the delineation between the ages of passengers; therefore, there is a lack of strong data with respect to local youth ridership. BC Transit has expressed this to the Province as a challenge and has proposed fare cards or user cards for students that would allow BC Transit to collect accurate data with respect to youth ridership. As the implementation of the new Electric Fare Program rolls out, there will be more demographic information available.

Mr. Ringma will provide the committee with a copy of the Future Transit Action Plan.

Councillor Lum, Co-Chair, left the meeting at 4:30 pm.

6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**1. Pavement Quality Service Level**

Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage, provided a presentation with respect to pavement quality service levels. An overview of the current 2023 Chilliwack Pavement Quality Survey was provided. The survey will be used as an assessment tool for all of Chilliwack's roads. A Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a contractor for this year's survey is out and closes next week.

A brief breakdown of the survey included the following:

- Detailed Catalogue of Road Network
- Road Surface Condition
- Road Evaluation
- Current Status Report
- Recommendations for Optimal Maintenance
- 10 Year Look Ahead
- Achievable Service Levels with Various Funding Scenarios

Completion of the survey is anticipated to be completed by September 2023. The results from the survey will be brought back to the committee for information with respect to the state of the roads.

General Discussion

Comment was provided with respect to the quality of roads in some areas of Fairfield Island and it was queried whether crack sealing is still performed. It was noted that some of the roads in the FFI neighbourhood appear to be cracking. Staff provided information regarding the process and timeline of crack sealing in the Road Rehabilitation Program which is planned for 2023.

Constable Mike Sabulsky, Acting NCO i/c RCMP, Traffic Section, queried whether the pavement quality information will be publicly accessible. Staff noted that there will be a presentation to Council of the survey results and recommendations regarding the paving program and associated service levels.

Discussion ensued with respect to some of the more rural roads that have fewer users, but are in poor condition. An enquiry was raised regarding how road maintenance is prioritized with respect to the safety aspect versus traffic volume on rural roads; staff provided clarification noting both safety and the PQI is considered high priority despite roads that do not necessarily have high traffic volume.

Follow-up discussion ensued with respect to whether there has been consideration to widen any rural roads which often have overuse of the road shoulders due to heavy farm equipment. Staff noted some of the constraints that prevent the widening of some rural roads, including watercourses and narrow property lines, however, all roads are considered for widening if within the budget.

Discussion ensued with respect to last year's flooding in the Fraser Valley and provincial funding allocation for the re-building of infrastructure. Part of the Province's criteria is that municipalities re-build infrastructure better to avoid future events; staff noted many of the corrugated steel culvert pipes that were damaged in the flood event in November 2021, were replaced with concrete pipes.

6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION (continued)

Comment was provided with respect to the recent flood preparations recently announced and whether the City of Chilliwack provides any of the funding; staff noted the City of Chilliwack has been working with Skwah and Schweyey Village FNs to undertake the dike project that protects all three communities; the Province announced funding for the long-term dike project in early February 2023. The City of Chilliwack has submitted an application for additional funding for a rock armouring project to assist with that process, with Skwah First Nation administering the program.

2. 2023 Transportation Design & Construction Projects

Colette McDiarmid, Supervisor - Roads, Transportation, Drainage & Dyking, provided an update of the following 2023 Transportation Design and Construction Projects:

1. Prest Road Phase 3 between Bailey Road and McGuire Road - McGuire Roundabout
2. Vedder Road at South Sumas Intersection
3. Watson Road – Vedder to Tyson Road
4. Tyson Road – Watson to Evans Road
5. Luckakuck Way – Vedder Road to Southern Railway (SRY)
6. Bridge Repair/Replacement – Banford at Semiault
7. Keith Wilson Road – Tyson to Garrison
8. Downtown Parking Lot - Victoria Avenue east of Young Road
9. Downtown Breezeway
10. Main Street – Patten to Wellington
11. Vedder Trail Bridge (pedestrian & cyclist) – Vedder River Crossing
12. Williams Street Bridge (pedestrian & cyclist) – Hope Slough Crossing
13. Downtown Cycling Network – Connection to Valley Rail Trail
14. Knight Road Bike Lanes – Evans to Topaz
15. Edwards Street – Hodgins to Spadina
16. Accessibility Ramps - staff reviewing notable location gaps & prioritizing locations
17. Traffic Management – Signals & Emergency Pre-Emption System
18. Pedestrian Signal Accessibility
19. LED Street Light Retrofit – South side of Highway 1 & Signalized Intersections
20. Pedestrian Crossing Improvements - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's)
21. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Various Locations

This year's construction projects will be updated monthly on our website at the following link:

[Highlighted Construction Projects - City of Chilliwack](#)

General Discussion

A query was raised with respect to whether the improvements to Luckakuck Way will include delineators along the roadway near the Southern Railway overpass; staff noted there will be continuous on-street bike lanes on both sides of Luckakuck Way with a portion of the roadway, from approximately Hofstede's Country Barn to the Southern Railway overpass, which will include a multi-use pathway separated from the road.

An enquiry was raised regarding the delay in environmental approval for the Vedder Trail Bridge and the Williams Street Bridge; staff noted the Vedder Trail Bridge construction is within the Vedder River flood area, and although the bridge itself is not in the water, the abutments are located within the riparian zone. Therefore, provincial land tenure is required. As the water is navigable, Transport Canada must also provide approval.

6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION (continued)

Concern was expressed regarding possible vandalism on the Vedder Trail Bridge and a query was raised regarding whether the design for the Vedder Trail Bridge includes any lighting such as solar lights; staff noted there are no plans at this stage to include lighting on the pedestrian bridge; however, this will be taken into future consideration.

A question was raised with respect to the Williams Street Bridge and whether there will be wayfinding signage connecting the Broadway/Airport cycle lanes to the 'Experience the Fraser' Trail; staff noted in the Cycle Vision Plan, signage is planned as part of the bridge construction. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has just closed for the Downtown Cycling Network which will provide connections into the downtown core and the Fairfield Island area.

A query was raised with respect to the Emergency Pre-Emption System as to how many of Chilliwack's fire trucks have GPS's; staff noted the Emergency Pre-Emption System allows traffic signals to turn green faster as a fire truck is approaching an intersection. A majority of the fire trucks have either infrared (IR) or a GPS system or a combination of both. The fire trucks with infrared will eventually be transferred over to a GPS system over the next five years. Staff further noted Emergency Services is priority 1; however, there is an option to move to a secondary level of priority at Priority 2 which could include transit buses.

Staff noted the City of Chilliwack will be purchasing a cycle lane sweeper which will allow for consideration of more protected bike lane options due to a better ability to keep the bike lanes clean.

A request for follow-up was made with respect to an update on curb cut outs, cycling sharrows and signage at the Young Road bridge over the Hope River for 2022. An update was requested regarding the installation of a cycling hook turn and push button eastbound on Yale at Menzies.

Sharrows and signage at Young Road bridge - staff are currently reviewing the design works with respect to the Hope River bridge. The location is too narrow for sharrows; however, other options are being considered in order to facilitate a thoroughfare for cyclists.

Cycling hook turn and push button eastbound on Yale at Menzies – staff noted there are no current plans for a hook turn and push button at this location until the network is extended along Menzies.

Staff will provide the Committee with a list of intersections with missing wheelchair letdowns.

7. OTHER**8. INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE****1. 2023 Terms of Reference**

The 2023 Terms of Reference were provided for information.

2. 2023 Membership List

The 2023 Membership List was provided for information.

3. 2023 Meeting Date Schedule

The 2023 Meeting Date Schedule was provided for information.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 3:30 pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Co-Chair

DRAFT