



Making a difference...together

Notes of a Meeting of the Regional Transportation Working Group Held Monday, June 26, 2023 via MS Teams

PRESENT: Staff: K. Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services; E. Sinclair, Senior Manager, Regional and Strategic Planning; I. Lawrence, Senior Manager, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Planning; J. Starke, Manager Service Delivery, Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area; J. Hicks, Senior Transportation Planner, Regional and Strategic Planning; N. Bandringa, Research Planner, Regional and Strategic Planning; J. Douillard, Research Planner, Regional and Strategic Planning; E. Taylor, Planner, Regional Parks; L. Hube (recorder).

Also present: B. DeMaere, Town of Sidney; C. Davie, Township of Esquimalt; I. Leung, Town of View Royal; J. Bendle, Province of British Columbia Ministry of Transportation, and Infrastructure (MoTI); J. Rosenberg, City of Colwood; K. Balzer, City of Langford; M. Squires, District of Saanich; S. Webb, City of Victoria; S. Button, BC Transit; S. Rennick, District of Oak Bay.

REGRETS: B. Martin, District of North Saanich; D. Puskas, District of Central Saanich; J. Carter, District of Sooke; J. Leahy, Senior Manager, Regional Parks; J. Clary, Town of Sidney; J. Baylis, City of Colwood; K. Campbell, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area; K. Lesyshen, District of Metchosin; L. Beckett, District of the Highlands; M. Pearson, MoTI; M. MacIntyre, Capital Regional District; R. Mattson, District of Sooke; R. Kenny, City of Victoria; T. McKay, District of Saanich; Y. Sylvestre, District of Central Saanich.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

1. Welcome and Introductions

E. Sinclair welcomed members of the Regional Transportation Working Group (working group) and provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

The working group members approved the agenda with a change in wording *Launch of Uber* to *Launch of large-scale ride hailing companies* and the addition of an item for information, *Very Light Rail - View Royal Exercise*.

3. Transportation Committee/Capital Regional District (CRD) Board Update

E. Sinclair, Senior Manager of Regional and Strategic Planning provided a look back / look ahead update on CRD Transportation Committee business. At its May 17, 2023 meeting, the committee directed staff to begin an engagement process with local governments, electoral areas and agency partners on regional transportation governance. The upcoming July 19, 2023 meeting will focus regional trail widening and lighting. J. Hicks, Senior Transportation Planner, Regional and Strategic Planning, noted the committee has indicated support on numerous occasions for the Transportation Working Group working together on items like the AAA definition, elephant's feet, etc.

4. Transportation Governance – CRD Board Direction

E. Sinclair presented a backgrounder on the forthcoming Transportation Governance Engagement Workbook, including priorities, regional transportation goals, a comparison of authorities, the requirements for getting to a full authority, incremental steps toward

governance change, and the scope, example questions, and timeline for engagement. The group discussion clarified roles and expectations.

CRD will engage partners on governance concepts through a workbook and questionnaire sent to Mayor and Councils on July 11, 2023, to be completed and returned by September 15, 2023. CRD is seeking a shared definition on governance and consensus on the desired scope and scale of governance change. This information will be used to determine a preferred governance concept and to begin business case development.

- **Action:** CRD to send Transportation Governance Engagement Workbook to Mayor and Councils on July 11, 2023.
- **Action:** Members are encouraged to reach out to John Hicks if additional one-on-one meetings are desired to discuss the workbook.
- **Action:** Members are encouraged to reach out sooner than later should they wish to have CRD staff present at a July, August, or September meeting.
- **Action:** CRD to create a templated version of Emily's presentation to support Members in providing background/context for workbook.

5. Communications/Education and Encouragement

J. Hicks provided a general update reminding Members that this section is to discuss gap areas in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and share what we are doing on communications/education and encouragement campaigns. He gave examples of campaigns the CRD is undertaking, including the parks etiquette campaign and the Traffic Safety Commission campaign to target youth, and reminded the group that there is open opportunity for local governments and community groups to work with the TSC on campaigns and education.

N. Bandringa provided an update on Ready Step Roll (RSR), where the CRD has initiated work with four new schools and their respective municipalities for 2023-2024. She also shared an update regarding the new Pilot, Sustainable Commute Planning (SCP), working with CFB Esquimalt, Seaspan, and relevant municipal partners. The workplace pilot also uses a 7E's approach to increase the use of active and sustainable transportation modes. The initial surveys for both RSR and SCP boasted impressive participation/response rates and the data will be analyzed by staff over the summer. CRD staff will reach out to municipalities with any concerns and opportunities for consideration into workplans to improve road safety for all users.

- **Action:** If Members ever have something that should be raised or flagged or could benefit from a campaign with the Traffic Safety Commission, please reach out to John.
- **Action:** Members to share that the Beckett Memorial scholarship is open for anyone wanting to enter policing/enforcement.
- **Action:** Members to respond to J. Douillard's request for information on infrastructure changes made in the last year.

6. Launch of large-scale ride hailing companies

J. Hicks shared that the requirement for business licensing across the region is a carry-forward item for the next meeting. The City of Victoria has done a lot of work to get this moving forward.

7. Grants – Complete Communities Fund and Growing Communities Fund

E. Sinclair shared details about the CRD's application to UBCM's Complete Communities Fund (funded by the Province) to complete a growth and mobility study. She also discussed the Province's Growing Communities Fund and was curious about what other communities are doing with this funding.

- **Action:** CRD may be asking for Road Network and other Transportation-related layers.

8. Update on Parks Trail Widening and Lighting

E. Taylor, Planner at Regional Parks, discussed the previous work that considered various options for widening, separating, and lighting on regional trails. Public engagement on the project was completed in 2022 and Parks was directed to pursue partnerships and grant opportunities to advance the work. While there is a pending application with the Federal Active Transportation Fund, two other applications were unsuccessful. Thus, they are looking at other ways of advancing the project and will be going to Transportation Committee and Board in July to propose different funding models for expediting the work and reducing reliance on grant funding opportunities.

- **Action:** Members are asked to contact E. Taylor to discuss any questions and related work.

9. Very Light Rail in View Royal

I. Leung shared that View Royal Council has tasked staff with finding a corridor for the trial of Very Light Rail. Staff are taking a high level look at it and will be reporting to Council in July with potentially viable options as well as disclaimers to consider in mitigating risk.

- **Action:** Members to reach out to I. Leung with any questions or support needed.
- **Action:** View Royal to CC: Regional Parks on relevant communications with MoTI Real Estate, BC Transit, Island Corridor Foundation, etc. to manage expectations.

10. Adjournment

The working group meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

The next meeting will be held via MS Teams on Monday September 11, 2023 from 10:30 am to 12 pm.