

City of Chilliwack
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023, 3:00 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
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
Brent Bowker, Community Member
Dave Hill, ICBC
Tanis Hatch, ICBC

City Staff Members: Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage
Colette McDiarmid, Supervisor - Roads, Transportation, Drainage & Dyking
Jaimie Tocher, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Ann McNabb, Community Member
Neal Moulton, Area Manager, Fraser Valley South, Ministry of Transportation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Shields called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm and provided territorial acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda for Thursday, June 22,
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 (April 20, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION**1. BC Transit Update – Labour Dispute**

Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit, provided a brief update with respect to the current labour strike conveying some of the main points as noted below:

- The Minister of Labour, Harry Bains, has appointed Vince Ready as special mediator in the labour dispute. Mr. Ready will have 10 days to reach out to all parties, gather information about what everyone is asking for and what are they willing to negotiate on; he will then come up with recommendations for both parties. Once the recommendations have been tabled, both parties will then have up to 5 days to accept or reject his recommendations. If there is a rejection from either party or both, it will escalate back up to the Minister of Labour to then decide if he moves towards binding arbitration, or encouraging both sides to get back to the table
- Mr. Ringma stated he believed that Mr. Ready has asked for an extension as the two sides are quite far apart still. Mr. Ringma believes there should be some movement in the next 1.5 weeks.
- The dispute is now reaching 95 days; Mr. Ringma is hoping that a resolution will be reached sometime in July, so they can be back to service in August and be ready before September when ridership increases.
- Mr. Ringma mentioned some challenges that may be experienced from a cost perspective are maintaining some of the fixed costs; however, the operations team is confident once the situation is resolved, they should be able to have buses back on the road after 1-1.5 weeks, once all mechanical and operational processes are complete.

General Discussion:

Discussion ensued with respect to the labour situation such as seniors needing handyDART and taxi saver coupons. A member inquired about a bus ridership slideshow that Mr. Ringma had presented to the committee previously; Mr. Ringma noted he would forward the information to the member. Mr. Ringma noted a "Return to Ridership Program" which involves discounts on tickets and marketing, and how Whistler/Sea to Sky was involved in this program during their strike with some success.

Members of the committee noted they discussed transit expansion and reallocating resources concerns at a recent school board meeting with local Members of Parliament.

Co-Chair Shields noted he and Co-Chair Lum met with the Transportation Minister, Rob Fleming regarding funding for transit expansion.

Mr Ringma left the meeting at 3:29 pm.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**1. Transportation Design & Construction Projects progress update**

Colette McDiarmid, Supervisor – Roads, Transportation, Drainage and Dyking, provided an update on the Transportation Design & Construction Projects progress:

Chilliwack River Road

- Stormceptors, concrete curb and gutter, and asphalt overlay to correct road drainage have all been installed; the multi-use pathway is paved along the east side of Chilliwack River Road from Promontory to Bailey. Most of the streetlighting has been installed as well as two new crosswalks with signs and markings.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

- There are a few remaining poles for streetlighting to be completed, electrical commissioning of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) and lighting. Green MMA paint will follow once the asphalt has cured

Knight Road

- Valley Rail Trail Crossing and railway upgrades and design work is underway; signal will be upgraded to flashing bells, RRFB and crosswalk installation; and, connecting infrastructure for pedestrian and cyclists to the bike lanes and sidewalk on the west side of the railway tracks. Estimated completion is set for June 2024.

Tyson Road to South Sumas to Watson

- Staff took into consideration the committee's desire for protected bike lanes and is reviewing the available roadway limits and preliminary design; staff will consider changing the plan from on-street bike lanes to multi-use pathways instead, which are 3 metres wide and completely separate and protected from the road traffic. The RFEI is completed, moving to RFP stage with three proponents working towards design and construction submissions.
- A member inquired about the intersection of Tyson and South Sumas and the difficulty buses have turning at this intersection. Left turn lane stop bars are close to the intersection as well as power poles making turning difficult from other directions. See the Engineering staff's comments below in response:
 - The pre-design does show improvement on the north and south legs with a wider cross section.
 - Through the detailed design process, we will ensure the stop bars are set back to allow for truck/bus turning.
 - The poles/signals placement near the curb returns will be a challenge, as space is limited. However, we will work with the successful Design-Build team and with BC Hydro for improvements.

Keith Wilson Road – Tyson to Garrison

- Staff took into consideration the committee's desire for protected bike lanes. The north side of the road will remain the same with an on-street bike lane and sidewalks, however, the south side will now see a 3m wide multi-use pathway behind concrete curbing with room for a boulevard strip including landscaping and trees. The roundabout at Tyson and Keith Wilson will also have some changes to force traffic to a turning movement that will help to slow traffic down.

Discussion ensued regarding provincial and federal funding; staff noted the Tyson Road project received \$500,000.00 in provincial funding. A member inquired whether the City would be approaching ICBC for funding, staff noted more varied projects will be reviewed for consideration to be brought forward to ICBC.

2. Active Transportation Focus on Protected Bike Lanes and Multi-Use Paths

Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage, provided feedback regarding protected bike lanes and Multi-Use Paths (MUP's):

- The MUP's will benefit both pedestrians and cyclists of all abilities, creating a nicer experience with a wider path for the varied usership on these corridors.
- Future plans for a cycle network from the Valley Rail Trail into the downtown area, with delivery points tying into the Trans Canada Trail are underway.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

- A bridge is proposed across the Hope River Slough at Williams Road creating opportunities to bring people into the downtown.
- Luckakuck East of Vedder – Phase 1 will see the previously painted bike lanes replaced with an MUP from the Valley Rail Trail along Luckakuck; intersection improvements to Luckakuck are planned for better access into the Real Canadian Superstore, eventually extending over to Vedder Road.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of the Vedder Trail Bridge; staff advised that the City is in discussions with the Province regarding approval to proceed. The Williams Street Bridge was discussed regarding environmental impacts.

Co-Chair Lum expressed his thanks to Mr. Mossey and the Engineering team for incorporating the safer cycling facilities/protected infrastructure going forward.

Co-Chair Lum left the meeting at 3:53 pm.

A member had an inquiry regarding the effects on city roadways/access points regarding the Trans Mountain Pipeline; staff noted Trans Mountain is required to leave the roads in as good of condition, or better once their work is complete, as per the permits issued. Mr. Mossey noted he would make a special note to the Land Development department to ensure this is checked.

Note: Land Development staff have confirmed that a final inspection of all City-affected infrastructure, including roadways, will be completed with Trans Mountain prior to de-mobilization from the pipeline project, in order for any and all damage to be corrected.

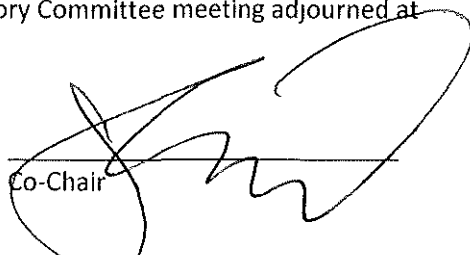
Co-Chair Shields noted Uber is now in Chilliwack; the Committee commented that it was good to have the option for the community.

6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**7. OTHER****8. INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE****9. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.


Co-Chair