

**City of Chilliwack**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022, 3:30 pm**  
**Held Electronically**

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**Council Members:** Councillor Jeff Shields, Chair  
Councillor Jason Lum, Vice Chair

**TAC Members:** Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit  
Adriana McMullen, Senior Transit Planner, Fraser Valley Region, BC Transit  
Bryden Nelmes, Community Member  
Wayne Williams, SD33, Manager of Transportation  
Chelsea Cromarty, Community Member  
Stephen Head, Community Member  
Marlon Hall, Chamber of Commerce  
Willow Reichelt, Vice Chair, SD33 Board of Education  
Corporal Mike Pfeifer, RCMP, Traffic Section

**City Staff Members:** Kara Jefford, Manager of Transportation and Drainage  
Andrew Pipke, Traffic Technician  
Samantha Piper, Public Safety Specialist  
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Tanis Hatch, ICBC  
Jim Ryan, Community Member  
David Hill, Road Safety Engineer, ICBC (Ex-Officio)  
Neal Moulton, Area Manager, Fraser Valley South, Ministry of Transportation

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Jeff Shields was Chair and called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved / ) That the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda for Thursday, January 20,  
Seconded ( 2022 be amended to include Section 5 Old Business / Actions Item with respect to  
E-Scooters; and further, that the agenda be adopted, as amended.

Carried Unanimously

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved / ) That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held  
Seconded ( Thursday, June 24, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION****5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS****Active Transportation Plan – Public Engagement Results**

Andrew Pipke, Traffic Technician and Sam Piper, Public Safety Specialist, provided a presentation with respect to the public engagement results from the Active Transportation Plan Survey. The information included background, participation statistics, survey summary and highlights, quick polls summary, online mapping summary, lessons learned; and, next steps.

The public engagement was completed in Fall 2021, after widespread community engagement took place to seek resident feedback with respect to Active Transportation infrastructure throughout the City of Chilliwack focusing on determining where future pedestrian funding should be spent that best reflects where the community is now and where it will be. Components of Active Transportation such as walking, wheelchairs, assisted mobility devices, scooters, skateboards and other forms of micro mobility, were considered.

The Engagement Summary was to be completed in November 2021; however, the November 2021 flood event pushed staff resources back into the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022. The Engagement Summary is now complete and will be posted for the public in the February 4, 2022 edition of the City of Chilliwack E-Newsletter.

Participation Statistics were provided which included a mapping activity, two Quick Polls, ten pop-up events, two videos, letter invitations, online and paper surveys (381 received), face-to-face and phone conversations (hundreds) and, committee updates.

The Survey Summary included 22 multiple choice questions, seven related to demographics. Residents were very engaged, enthusiastic and provided good feedback. Staff reached out to various community organizations to see if they could provide any specialized engagement with respect to some community members who may be visually impaired, or have other disability concerns.

The Survey Response highlights were provided including responses to various questions related to forms of Active Transportation. Quick Poll Summary results indicated acknowledgement that pedestrians walk, bike or roll approximately 1 km of infrastructure on a typical day; however, some residents use active transportation infrastructure such as pedestrian and cycling facilities more often in Chilliwack.

The Online Mapping Summary was provided with respect to accessibility, crossings, safety; and, sidewalks/pathways. Lessons learned were with respect to challenges such as technology fatigue, particularly with COVID-19 restricting many of the public engagement events to online rather than in-person. The Engineering Department will be working to build stronger relationships with community organizations to ensure proper processes are undertaken to include infrastructure for those who have specific requirements.

**Timeline:**

- Consultant: prioritization, equity analysis, Bylaw update
- Finalization: Winter 2022
- Draft Report and Final Consultation: Spring 2022
- Final Report and Adoption: Late Spring / Summer 2022

**5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)****Discussion/Questions:**

Bryden Nelmes, Community Member, thanked staff for the presentation.

Willow Reichelt, Vice Chair, SD33 Board of Education, enquired as to whether the public engagement results are available to the public; staff noted the Engage Chilliwack platform will be updated to include the document and appendices. The City of Chilliwack E-Newsletter scheduled to be released on February 4, 2022 will also include a link to the public engagement results; however, staff will provide a link to this information prior to Feb. 4, 2022. Marlon Hall, Chamber of Commerce, expressed his thanks for the information ahead of the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting at the beginning of February.

Chelsea Cromarty, Community Member, enquired as to whether the consultant is taking into consideration the interaction or possible conflicts with other infrastructure such as cycling infrastructure and suggests the Pedestrian Plan should be operating in connection with, and through consideration of any other plans.

Staff noted the consultant is considering cycling infrastructure as part of the Active Transportation Plan with a focus on a few specific areas such as downtown where there may be space constraints, but will be complementary and not duplicate the work done in the Chilliwack Cycle Vision Plan. In some locations consideration will be taken for shared infrastructure such as a multi-use pathway or a shared shoulder.

**E-Scooters:**

Bryden Nelmes, Community Member, made a request to amend the agenda with respect to the status of helmets for E-scooters. At the June 24, 2021 meeting, staff noted the Highway and Traffic Bylaw 2019, No. 4686 could be reviewed regarding further consideration with respect to speed restriction, helmets and safety devices.

Staff noted E-Scooters are currently restricted to only multi-use paths; however, there has been concern raised regarding speed and safety of mobility devices such as electric bikes, electric scooters and other electric mobility devices. Staff are working with the Operations Department who have undertaken the task of addressing speed issues with respect to user conflict due to varying speeds on the City's trail network. Staff noted changes will be brought forward for consideration to the Highway and Traffic Bylaw 2019, No. 4686 ensuring helmets and other safety features such as horns, bells and lights, be required for E-scooters, similar to bicycle requirements.

**6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION****BC Transit NextRide 2.0 – Introduction**

Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit, provided a presentation with respect to the recent announcement issued by BC Transit regarding the implementation of the NextRide system in the Fraser Valley in spring 2022.

NextRide 1.0 was implemented in 2018 and 2019 in seven communities: Nanaimo, Victoria, Kamloops, Kelowna, Comox, Whistler and Squamish. Technical challenges with integrating NextRide 1.0 into communities that had more interconnections, such as the Fraser Valley, have been addressed in NextRide 2.0.

**6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION (continued)**

The NextRide system includes Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology (GPS's) to allow customers to see real-time bus locations along routes and what the predicted arrival times are at identified stops. NextRide 2.0 will provide bus location data to mobility providers (ie Transit App and Google Maps) and, by downloading the Transit App, customers will know exactly when their bus will arrive and to see how full a bus is at any given time. This will also allow people to better plan their trips both in Chilliwack as well as connections to Abbotsford and the TransLink system.

Other features include a visual public information display (PID) inside all buses which will 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.

Other benefits with NextRide 2.0 include ridership recovery, data intelligence, operational effectiveness including robust data on ridership, buses, bus times and bus routes which will provide insight and valuable knowledge into future route planning. An implication of NextRide 2.0 will include some duplicate Route numbers which will need to be adjusted in order to facilitate trip planning across systems.

Adriana McMullen, Senior Transit Planner, Fraser Valley Region, BC Transit provided a brief update with respect to ridership statistics. Boarding patterns remained the same in 2019 and early 2020, with the typical high point in September when students return to school; however, ridership changed when COVID-19 hit. Through the pandemic recovery period, the trajectory has been quite positive in terms of ridership recovery. Many factors are taken into consideration such as employment and telecommuting. The ridership recovery in the Fraser Valley; particularly, in Chilliwack has been very strong.

**Schedule**

The roll-out for Chilliwack, Agassiz, Harrison and Hope is anticipated to be in April 2022.

Chair Shields and Vice-Chair Lum expressed their thanks for BC Transit's work with respect to NextRide 2.0.

**Discussion/Questions:**

Chair Shields commented with respect to whether there was an increase in ridership during the pilot project; Rob Ringma, BC Transit, noted Whistler has seen an increase in ridership with NextRide 2.0; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has been very challenging for BC Transit to see how some pilot projects have affected ridership over the past 2 ½ years.

Ms. Reichelt commented with respect to customers who may not have cel phones; and therefore, are not able to use this technology; BC Transit recognizes there are multiple different demographics and noted the analogue Rider's Guide will remain available which includes schedules, maps, fares and a summary of transit services in the area. Cash will always be accepted as a form of payment and route maps will still be posted at bus stops.

Wayne Williams, SD33, Manager of Transportation provided comment with respect to the September peak in ridership in the Promontory area; Wayne thanked the City of Chilliwack, noting the improvement in ridership may be attributable to the infrastructure improvements along the Vedder Corridor and up to Promontory. This has allowed the School District to change ridership status off the Promontory area, re-allocating school buses to other areas.

**6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION (continued)**

Wayne Williams commented with respect to the recent staff shortages and cancelled routes many school districts have been experiencing; he enquired as to whether the NextRide 2.0 will send out cancellation notifications. BC Transit indicated the same service-alert system through BC Transit’s website where transit riders can sign up for service disruptions alerts. NextRide 2.0 will allow for trips to be removed from the schedule and will allow for push-alerts to be sent out.

**7. OTHER**

Bryden Nelmes, Community Member, provided comment noting he attended the January 18, 2022 Regular Council Meeting with respect to the 2022 Financial Plan Bylaw 2022, No. 5165 and was happy to see the transportation initiatives approved in 2022; however, queried the status of Phase 3 of the Prest Road project. Staff provided a status update for the project noting the land acquisitions for Phase 3 of Prest Road are currently underway. The design Request for Proposal (RFP) has gone out, and staff are continuing to work with BC Hydro. Construction of Phase 3 and the roundabout at Prest and McGuire is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Bryden Nelmes also enquired with respect to the status of the environmental assessment approvals for the Williams Street Bridge. Staff provided an update with respect to two new bridge projects – the Vedder Rotary Trail Bridge and the Williams Street Bridge. Discussion ensued with respect to the Hope River Boardwalk project.

**8. INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE**

**1. Discussion Notes – Thursday, September 23, 2021**

The Discussion Notes from Thursday, September 23, 2021 were provided for information.

**2. 2022 Terms of Reference**

The 2022 Terms of Reference were provided for information.

**3. 2022 Membership List**

The 2022 Membership List was provided for information.

**4. 2022 Meeting Schedule**

The 2022 Meeting Schedule was provided for information.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 3:30 pm.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

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Councillor Jeff Shields, Chair