

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE TRAINING ROOM, ANNEX, ON TUESDAY, 2012-MAR-06,
COMMENCING AT 3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Allan Davidson, Chair
Jim Routledge
Trevor McLeod
Michele Patterson
Councillor Bill Bestwick
Councillor Ted Greves
Councillor George Anderson
Councillor Bill McKay

Guests: Roy Ostling, Ostling and Associates
Elizabeth Szymanski, HDR Corporation
Rhys Wolff, HDR Corporation
Carl Wong, HDR Corporation
Jeff Moore, R.A. Malatest
Andreas Rose, R.A. Malatest

Staff: Susan Clift
Bob Prokopenko
Gordon Foy
Amir Freund
Tim Davidson
Bruce Anderson
Jodi Wilson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT:

With this being the final meeting before new members are selected, the Chair took the opportunity to thank the members for their efforts and involvement and acknowledged the committees accomplishments to date and hopes that the members will stay involved in the future.

3. INTRODUCTIONS:

Round table introductions took place.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND LATE ITEMS:

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the 2012-JAN-19 minutes be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

6. DELEGATIONS:

No delegations were present.

7. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

a) Transportation Master Plan – Progress Update – Gordon Foy (Presentation)

Presentation received. NTMP Project Updates

Population, Employment and Land Use Projections

Urban Futures, a demographics consulting firm from Vancouver has been selected to prepare our Population and Employment Land Base Projections (2011-2041). Urban Futures is currently conducting similar work for the CRD. City-wide population and employment projections will be developed and then allocated spatially within the City. We are working with 2011 census data to develop an estimate of current population; projections of employment and population for future years will follow.

Screenline and External Survey Study

Traffic counts have started and will continue into April; count stations are throughout the City and will rotate weekly. We are working with BC Transit and RDN Transit to finalize the details of transit rider counts. BC Transit and RDN Transit are helping us finance this work and are completing some of the work themselves.

Boulevard Transportation Group based in Victoria has been selected to complete the screenline, transit ridership and external gateway survey. Boulevard currently completing our annual intersection turning count program and are familiar with Nanaimo.

Household Travel Survey, Ferry/Transit On-Board Survey and Model Development

HDR and R.A. Malatest is the selected consultant for the Household Travel Survey, Transit and Ferry Onboard Surveys and Transportation Model Development. They are based in Vancouver, Victoria and Toronto and they are Transportation Engineering Specialists (HDR) and Survey and Market Research Specialists (R.A. Malatest). R.A. Malatest has just completed the CRD's most recent household travel survey in Victoria. HDR is working with Metro Vancouver on updating their transportation model.

A complementary online travel survey of VIU students will also be conducted via email invitation.

b) 2012 Nanaimo Household Travel Survey & Travel Demand Model – Project Overview and Outcomes – HDR & R.A. Malatest

Presentation received. Presented by: Elizabeth Szymanski, Rhys Wolff, Carl Wong

Preparation for the Household Survey started the beginning of February, field testing of the survey will take place the week of March 19th and the survey will commence the following week and continue through April. Success completion rates for telephone surveys range from 25% – 40%; our target response rate is 30%.

Gabriola Island residents will not be included in the Household Travel Survey but will be captured during the Ferry Onboard Survey. The Household Travel Survey will capture households from Protection Island.

The ferry on-board survey for Departure Bay and Duke Point Ferry Terminals is scheduled for after the re-opening of the Duke Point Ferry Terminal.

The survey will include local people that travel to the airport and may capture people who are taking the ferry after landing at the airport. The airport is not specifically being targeted for travellers arriving by plane.

The travel behaviour of people living outside of the study area will be captured in the License Plate survey done at the entry points to the study area.

Is the online survey open to everyone?

It is very important that we preserve the randomness of the sample that we collect. It is open to those households that are sampled for inclusion in the study.

If you were going to use the macroscopic model to try and have some input into land use decisions, how significant of a land use change would you need for it to be able to show up in a model like this?

What shows in the model, is whether you are changing the density of land use or type of land use. If it is a small area, the impact may not be significant enough to show up.

Has the software been selected?

Emme 3 software has been chosen. It has previously been used in many municipalities.

Councillor Bestwick asked how the E&N line could be incorporated between Ladysmith to Parksville with opportunities to get on and off along the way. Has there been contemplation to incorporate or integrate that potential into the long term planning of our Transportation Master Plan?

The transit component of the model could be coded to add the E&N rail corridor. If we go beyond the study area, we would have some additional work to incorporate. There is no problem to adding another mode to see how it behaves. Many things can be added, after the model is created.

Do you start a Transportation Plan first or do you start a Data Collection first? What is the best way to go? Plan or data first?

You need to know the characteristics of your community, how people travel now. You need to have an analysis tool – a model; then you move into a planning process. In Liz's professional opinion, the City of Nanaimo is proceeding with the best approach.

c) Transportation Surveys – Communication Plan

Presentation received.

Gord introduced Roy Ostling who is helping with the communication work over the next couple of months as complete the Household Travel Survey and are in the public gathering data; Roy is going to take care of getting the material up on the website and preparing media releases on behalf of the Engineering Department.

The three main objectives are:

- Educate and inform the public regarding the active surveys, eg. Household Travel Survey; why the data is required and how the residents can help
 - Engender public support for the process
 - Create public excitement about moving onto the next phase.
-
- The City of Nanaimo website will be the primary portal for the public/media. This will be active on 2012-Mar-12th.
 - A FAQ will be developed for City staff to reference.
 - A media briefing is scheduled for 2012-Mar-13th or 14th. Hoping to have members of the Transportation Advisory Committee available to answer questions. Gord advised that we are striving for a coordinated media event to have the opportunity to disperse the same message to all. Location and attendees still to be determined.
 - Social media will take place through the City of Nanaimo's facebook and twitter feeds. Encouraging people to focus on our website where we will have the majority of information available.

Staff asked for Council member's advice on what information we should include in a presentation to Council with regards to the media release that is going out and the surveys that will be taking place. Susan Clift expressed that she would like to add a little more information about the process so Councillors are aware if citizens should consult with them about the project. Councillors Bestwick and McKay suggested bringing it forward to Council on March 12th, so they are informed prior to the media briefing on March 13th or 14th. There will be contacts on the website with specific people/companies and numbers for specific topics.

R.A. Malatest identified that there will be a link to their Privacy Policy on the bottom of each survey should people have any concerns; Gord suggested they could call in to the Engineering Department if they have additional concerns.

It was moved and seconded to accept the presentations and reports as put forward. The motion carried unanimously.

d) Duke Point – Tsawwassen Ferry temporary service relocation to Departure Bay Terminal

Recent newspaper article regarding potential permanent closure of Duke Point Ferry Terminal was distributed.

Questions to be considered are:

- What would this look like if this happened in July as opposed to now (off season)?
- What would the increase in traffic be through Brechin/Departure Bay area, which is already an ongoing issue without the extra traffic from Duke Point?

Issue was received for information. No further action at this time. Issue may come up later through the Transportation Master Plan process.

We are delaying traffic counts in the Brechin/Departure Bay area, waiting for Duke Point Terminal to re-open. If Duke Point Terminal does not open in sufficient time, then we will manually adjust the numbers to account for the extra traffic flow.

Chair Davidson advised that four members have departed from the meeting, so we are now working without a quorum. All discussions from this point on are for information only.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence submitted.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) How to develop infrastructure for EV's

Bruce Labelle will be invited to a future meeting to discuss Level 3 Charge Stations and possible funding.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:38 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

11. NEXT MEETING:

To be determined.

CHAIR