

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE TRAINING ROOM, ANNEX, ON THURSDAY, 2011-SEP-15,
COMMENCING AT 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Allan Davidson, Chair
Jim Routledge
Councillor Jim Kipp
Councillor Ted Greves
Councillor Bill Holdom

Staff: Tom Hickey
Gordon Foy
Tim Davidson
Bruce Anderson
Rob Lawrance
Bruce Labelle
Jodi Wilson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:25 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND LATE ITEMS:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the 2011-JUL-07 minutes be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

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

At the last meeting, the Committee concluded to defer data collection activities for the Transportation Master Plan until Spring 2012 to take advantage of 2011 Census population data (available Feb 2012), and as our Gas Tax Grant Application with the RDN/Lantzville has not been confirmed (a successful Gas Tax Grant Application would impact the scope of work). Confirmation of the grant was expected late Summer or early Fall.

Councillor Kipp would like the information sent to the Councillors so they can lobby while they are at the Annual Conference. Adam Coronica, the City's Grants Coordinator will forward the information to Council in time for UBCM.

UPDATE (2011-Oct-14): UBCM has now updated their projected response time for Gas Tax Applications to December 2011. We are reviewing how this may impact our overall schedule.

The geographical scope of the transportation model will extend from just north of Lantzville to just south of the Nanaimo Airport. These locations are natural breakpoints in the transportation network and cover areas where the majority of City trips originate. If the grant application is not successful, we anticipate maintaining the same modeling area but lowering the level of detail in the RDN and Lantzville.

In anticipation that some data collection activities will occur at BC Ferries terminals, City staff met with BC Ferries to initiate a working relationship and inform them of the upcoming Transportation Master Plan. BC Ferries indicated that they would be open to working with the City on data collection activities but noted that safe operations around their terminals are their priority.

Future meetings will be held once the City has more details to share on data collection requirements. Generally, we would be interested in the starting origin and final destination of ferry users; if they stopped in Nanaimo or just passed through; their mode of transportation; and their trip purpose. Data requirements will be refined in the future.

There is a limited window of opportunity to collect travel behaviour data in the spring. When collecting travel data, it is best to avoid winter weather and to include school/university trips. The optimal timeframe is anticipated for late March or early April.

Projection of population and employment across the City and Region is required as a key input to the transportation model. The model is made of 233 zones (draft) and projections are done at a zone by zone level. It was noted that Newcastle Island was not included in the model zone system due to the fact that it doesn't have a permanent population and generates few trips. Newcastle Island could, however, be considered for inclusion; staff will tentatively include it as a zone and will address its uniqueness with the consultant responsible for the transportation model in the future.

Staff are working to select and purchase a transportation modelling software package; there are 3 packages being considered. The Lower Mainland uses a product called EMME/2 and Victoria has gone with a product called TransCad. The CRD (Victoria) would like for Nanaimo to use the same software as them; however, they may be the only user in the province. EMME has a much wider use base and there are numerous consultants working in BC that are familiar with it.

Our first modern roundabout will be built within the next 6 months as part of a new development taking place at Dufferin and Boxwood.

b) Nissan Leaf Electric Vehicle Launch Event – Tom H.

The launch took place right before today's TAC Meeting on 2011-Sep-15.

c) Transit Connect Update – Tom H.

In April 2010, Council endorsed the City's participation as a partner in the Transit Connect Electric Alliance of BC and committed to the acquisition and evaluation of 4 to 6 Transit Connect Electric vehicles in 2011 and 2012 based on a subsidy of 33% of the cost of these new vehicles.

The vehicle is a prototype by Ford, with Azure Dynamics providing the electric drive technology; together they were proposing to place 100 units in BC over the next 2 years. To support this initiative, a proposal was submitted to the BC Government's Innovative Green Energy Fund to provide \$23,100 per vehicle (33% of the \$69,750 estimated cost of these vehicles).

Recently, the City was informed that the Grant was not approved and the Transit Connect Electric vehicles will not be available to the City.

Alternatively, the City has acquired a used Ford Ranger and an electric conversion kit that is to be installed. The total cost for the truck, conversion kit, and installation will be about \$40,000. Staff will monitor its performance and cost. If this vehicle provides better value than a comparable gas engine compact truck, then 4 or 5 more may be purchased for the fleet.

d) VIU Parking Update – Tim D.

Parking doesn't appear to be a big problem just yet, but VIU still isn't in full swing. The Serauxmen Stadium has been changed to a metered lot and is now being monitored by Robbins Parking, on behalf of the School District. Parking at Serauxmen is \$8/day. Parking at VIU is \$9/day or \$35/month.

Once VIU is in full operation, we may have to expand on the Resident Exempt Parking Plan, but for the time being, there doesn't appear to be any problems. Councillor Holdom advised that enrolment has decreased a bit at VIU. Regional Transit had allocated 800 passes for VIU; but as these sold out, another 150 were added. Regional Transit normally sells between 700 – 750 passes. This is great news as it proves more people are riding transit.

e) Installation of Bike Racks in the Downtown – Tim D.

Tim Davidson met with City Staff and the DNBIA. DNBIA already has an active committee working on bike racks in the downtown core. Discussion took place about aesthetically pleasing bike racks being strategically placed throughout the downtown area to provide cyclists a safe and secure spot to park. The DNBIA is very keen to start working with the City and coming up with solutions.

This plan is in the preliminary stages and Tim will report back with more information at the next meeting.

It was moved and seconded that all the presentations be received. The motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS:

a) Electric Vehicle Charge Stations in Nanaimo – Tom H.

Tom Hickey went over the costs of the installation of charge stations in Nanaimo. The proposed locations are:

- VICC – 2 charge stations - \$8,400 (total)
- Beban Park – 2 charge stations \$13,500 (total)

If any questions arise, please contact Bruce Labelle at the Public Works Yard.

It was moved and seconded that the City install two electric charge stations at VICC and two at Beban Park and investigate the provisions for electric bicycles as well. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Transportation Advisory Committee send a letter of support to Andrea Mercer, BC Ministry of Environment in support of EV Infrastructure and Building Code changes. The motion carried unanimously.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Car Charging Plan Unveiled (Ontario)

It was moved and seconded that the correspondence be received as information only. The motion carried unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:30 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

10. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on 2011-Oct-19th, in the Training Room, Franklyn Street Annex, 3rd Floor, located at 238 Franklyn Street. The meeting time is 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

UPDATE (2011-Oct-14): The meeting scheduled for 2011-Oct-19th has been postponed until further notice. All TAC Committee members will be advised of the rescheduled date as soon as it available.

CHAIR

:jw/kr
g/Administration/Transportation Advisory Committee/Minutes/2011/2011-Sep-15