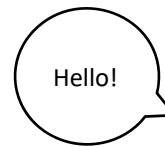


Introduction to the Transportation Group



A Bit of Background

- Nanaimo used to be a much smaller city. In 1975, Nanaimo amalgamated with surrounding communities, including what were then rural areas . Along with this new land, Nanaimo also inherited existing roads, many of which were built to rural standards
- Today, Nanaimo is a long, spread out city, which presents unique transportation planning challenges and opportunities.



Downtown Nanaimo Circa 1970
Photo credit: Nanaimo Community Archives

What do we do?

- The City of Nanaimo looks after maintenance and development of most roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails within the City. And we work with other agencies as well:
 - The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for the Island Highway, Stewart Avenue, the Nanaimo Parkway, and Duke Point Highway
 - The Island Corridor Foundation is responsible for the E&N Railway
 - The Regional District of Nanaimo is responsible for transit routes and service (the City is responsible for bus stops)



What Guides our Work?

- City Plans
- Design standards
- Availability of resources



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Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan

- be **safe** and comfortable in order to encourage people of all ages and abilities to walk, cycle, and use transit.
- provide **mobility** options for people of all ages and abilities to travel within the City by all modes of transportation.
- be **accessible** to people of all abilities and designed to overcome barriers experienced by people with cognitive and mobility challenges. Universal accessible design of the transportation system will improve mobility for all people in the community.
- provide attractive **connections** to key activity areas and trip generators in the community.
- be **sustainable** by creating attractive walking and cycling facilities and providing transit services that will reduce the need to drive around the City as the primary mode. More compact, dense land use patterns supported by active transportation solutions will serve to reduce GHG emissions and ultimately enhance overall community health and well being.
- be **affordable** based on current revenue streams such as general taxation, development cost charges as well as partnerships with private sector interests and development. Shift funding and investments to align with priority modes and support the Plan's Vision.

Excerpt from Pg 12 of [Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan](#) – “The Transportation Vision”

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Standards

- For many years, City standards supported basic accessibility elements, such as curb cuts, minor tactile surfacing, and audible crossing signals
- The City has recently adopted “Complete Street” standards which support a high standard of accessibility
- Nanaimo still has a lot of road space that is not up to accessibility standards

Availability of Resources

- A reality we face in the Transportation group is limited resources. We do not have enough budget to carry out every project that would be worthwhile – at least not in the shorter term. We do our best to prioritize projects that will have the greatest impact, and often have to make very difficult decisions
- We often have opportunities to complete transportation projects at the same time as other developments – for example, private land developers are required to improve the roadways in front of their property. We also partner with other City departments to make transportation improvements when utility lines are being replaced, as this reduces project costs significantly.



Accessibility and Inclusion

- With new standards in place, and a heightened awareness of the critical importance of accessibility and inclusiveness in City services, the City of Nanaimo has made some significant improvements in recent years.
- However, we have a long way to go yet.
- We acknowledge that our current context reflects many years where accessibility and inclusion were not prioritized
- We acknowledge that our focus in Transportation has been more on accessibility than inclusion, and that we need to broaden our understanding of how to adapt our services beyond physical accessibility
- We also acknowledge that we need help and guidance to ensure we are making this shift in the best way possible.

Future Planning

- REIMAGINE NANAIMO is our opportunity to take a closer look at our priorities, and our options for addressing the directions set by the Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan
- We know our plans must account for accessibility and inclusion. We also know we need your help to ensure this is done right.



Thank you!

Discussion Questions

- What are the biggest accessibility and inclusion challenges within Nanaimo's transportation system?
- What are the biggest opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusion within Nanaimo's transportation system?