

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF
MEETING

JUNE 13, 2022

AUTHORED BY

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SUBJECT

DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPORTATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To seek support from Council to develop a multi-agency Memorandum of Understanding to plan and execute transportation enhancements to support Transit within the City of Nanaimo.

Recommendation

That Council direct Staff to work with the Regional District of Nanaimo, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and BC Transit to draft a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of planning and executing enhancements to support transit and mobility within the City of Nanaimo.

BACKGROUND

The City of Nanaimo (City) has been working through the Relmagine process for the past three years with the final product being the Draft City Plan. The public clearly stated that a safe, reliable, and accessible mobility system is important to the residents of Nanaimo. Feedback is consistent that the Transit system needs to improve if it is to become an appealing alternative to personal vehicle usage. Simultaneous to the Relmagine process, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) with the City as a partner, undertook the Transit Redevelopment Strategy (TRS). While the City Plan is a long range visioning document, the TRS is a more immediate action plan document. The TRS has also included engagement with BC Transit (BCT) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

DISCUSSION

A key outcome from both the Draft City Plan and the TRS is the adoption of core transit routes; the 1 (Bus Rapid Transit - BRT) and the 2 & 3 (Bus Frequent Transit - BFT). The identification of the BRT and the BFT routes not only guides investment in Transit Service, but will also guide transit oriented development, which is an important element of a successfully “*connected*” City. Being an implementation document, the TRS outlines a number of service and infrastructure action items needed to successfully support the community. The first of these is to seek a formal commitment from each of the stakeholders (City, RDN, BCT, and MoTI) within the community. Based on this, the Regional District Board passed the following resolution at the March 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting:

Resolution - *“That the Regional District of Nanaimo work with the City of Nanaimo, BC Transit and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to support planning and coordination required to move forward on the infrastructure priorities outlined in the Transit Redevelopment Strategy.”*

Based on this resolution, Staff are now seeking formal direction from Council to participate in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the commitments from the various agencies to support the vision within the Draft City Plan and advance the recommendations within the TRS.

OPTIONS

1. That Council direct Staff to work with the Regional District of Nanaimo, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and BC Transit to draft a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of planning and executing enhancements to support Transit and Mobility within the City of Nanaimo.
 - The advantages of this option:
 - With the identification of a unified vision through the TRS and Draft City Plan, the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between all agencies will solidify the long term commitment to the growth and development of the mobility system within Nanaimo.
 - The disadvantages of this option:
 - There are no disadvantages of this option.
 - Financial Implications: None
2. That Council provide alternate direction to Staff.
 - The advantages of this option:
 - Not participating in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the other named agencies will ensure the City does not become encumbered by goals or objectives from others.
 - The disadvantages of this option:
 - Not participating in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the other named agencies could impede the City from achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the Draft City Plan and Transit Redevelopment Strategy.
 - Financial Implications: None

SUMMARY POINTS

- Recent projects: Reimagine (Draft City Plan) and the Transit Redevelopment Strategy, affirmed the community's view that alternatives to personal vehicle usage are important.

- The Transit Redevelopment Strategy recommended that the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding will help ensure the goals and objectives of the plan are achieved.
- The Regional District of Nanaimo Board has passed a motion to direct Regional District of Nanaimo staff to participate in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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