

NO: R147

COUNCIL DATE: October 5, 2020

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 29, 2020**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **8630-40**

SUBJECT: **Surrey Transportation Plan: Engagement Goals and Phases**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide an overview of Phase 2 engagement activities and outreach for the Surrey Transportation Plan (“STP”) that will begin on October 13, 2020.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, staff commenced with the development of an update to the City’s Transportation Strategic Plan. The need for a new and updated plan was in part a response to the many changes to the transportation network, population growth, and increases to densities over the past 12 years.

The focus of the new STP is to address the challenges and opportunities of responding to a growing city, global drivers of change, and charting a path forward to ensure the City has an efficient and equitable transportation system that supports the City’s vision of a thriving, green and inclusive city. To achieve this, five foundational pillars, approved by Council as part of Corporate Report No. Ro29; 2020 (attached as Appendix “I”) will guide the STP and respond to Surrey’s unique context:

1. Grow the Transportation Network
2. Prioritize Vision Zero Surrey
3. Tackle the Climate Crisis
4. Innovate through Technology and New Mobility
5. Balance Equity

The new STP will support Smart Development principles and develop a long-range vision for transportation in 2050, consistent with staff input to TransLink’s Transport 2050, and will set 10 Year Action Plans to help “Connect People + Places”. The STP will also support major projects such as the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain Project and the City’s Climate Action Strategy.

DISCUSSION

The STP has an overall engagement goal to support informed participation by residents, businesses, and stakeholders of Surrey that reflect community values, interests, and priorities. This goal will be met through a public engagement process consisting of four phases of engagement and outreach outlined below.

Engagement Phases

Phase 1: Information Sharing (August 24 – October 13, 2020)

This phase will provide information about the STP's foundational pillars, built awareness of the public engagement process and its importance, and provided context and background.

Phase 2: Understanding Community Values (October 13 – November 27, 2020)

This phase will engage the community and stakeholders to hear what is important to them, identify key values, and understand the opportunities and challenges related to transportation.

Technical work over the following three months will utilize the feedback from Phase 2 to draft key approaches and baseline metrics and targets to address the five pillars.

Phase 3: Feedback on Key Approaches (March – April 2021)

This phase will involve the community and stakeholders to evaluate potential priorities, seek feedback on concepts, trade-offs and approaches that will address the five pillars. .

After Phase 3, work will focus on drafting the STP's long-range vision, the draft action plans noted above, and a decision-making framework that will be published with the plan.

Phase 4: Refinement and Confirmation (September – October 2021)

This final phase will receive feedback on the draft STP, validate key elements, and provide an opportunity for the public to identify gaps, concerns or points for clarification.

Completed work through Phase 1 Engagement

Phase 1 of the Engagement Process began in August 2020 with the launch of the STP webpage at <https://www.surrey.ca/transportationplan>. A video and infographic, attached as Appendix "II", are available to provide context behind the need for a new STP. The webpage also provides an introduction to the STP's five pillars and serves as a platform for stakeholders and residents to register and participate in future engagement opportunities. Information has been shared on various platforms including social media, news releases, and advertising on transit and stations and will be used throughout the engagement process.

Launch of Phase 2: Understanding Values

Phase 2 will launch on October 13, 2020. This is a significant phase in the plan development, as engagement will involve residents, businesses, and stakeholders in identifying current transportation realities in order to document the community and business experiences of transportation today. This will include input on what is working well and what could be improved and how the current transportation network affects individuals, groups, and stakeholders.

Engagement techniques during this phase have been revised to accommodate current Provincial COVID-19 restrictions on in-person engagement activities. Conventional engagement will move primarily online leading with a survey that will launch on October 26.

The survey will focus on the lived experience of moving in Surrey to identify stakeholder values and what barriers and opportunities they would like the new STP to address.

Additional techniques will be used to gather input and achieve engagement objectives, particularly reaching the seldom heard groups and aligning results with demographic profiles across the City. This will include hosting virtual open houses, direct stakeholder interviews with senior transportation leaders, and focus groups. A Stakeholder Engagement Panel, including staff representatives from the Public Engagement Task Force, will be formed to assist the City in reaching Surrey citizens and business and community groups from various backgrounds and neighbourhoods, including those seldom heard or hardly reached.

The results from the Phase 2 engagement will be reported back to Council and then used to support development of the long-range vision, actions plans and Phase 3 engagement for the project.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The engagement goals and phases for the STP support the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, the engagement goals and phases relate to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 theme of Inclusion. Specifically, the STP update supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO"):

- Age-Friendly Community DO18: Children and youth have opportunities for engagement, leadership and having a voice in their community; and
- Community Pride and Engagement DO21: All residents have opportunities to be meaningfully engaged in civic issues and to contribute to community life.

CONCLUSION

The STP engagement process is underway and has goals and objectives to support informed participation by residents, businesses, and stakeholders of Surrey that reflect community values, interests, and priorities. The engagement process is entering into Phase 2, which is a significant phase of public involvement. Staff will hear from stakeholders on how transportation impacts their lived experience in Surrey and obtain their values. This will inform the long-range vision that will "Connect People + Places" through 2050 and beyond. Staff will bring forward a Corporate Report for Council to report on the Phase 2 public engagement once it is complete.

Scott Neuman, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

SSL/DM/BH/DB/cc

Appendix "I" – Corporate Report No. R029; 2020

Appendix "II" – Connecting People & Places: Just the Facts Infographic

CORPORATE REPORT

NO: *R029*

COUNCIL DATE: *February 24, 2020*

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 14, 2020**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **8630-40**

SUBJECT: **Transportation Strategic Plan Update**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Approve the five key pillars of the new Surrey Transportation Plan, as described in this report.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide an update on the development of a new Transportation Strategic Plan, authorized by Council in June 2019, and provide an overview of the upcoming engagement process.

BACKGROUND

At the June 24, 2019 Regular Council meeting, Council, as part of Corporate Report No. R119; 2019 attached as Appendix "I", authorized staff to proceed with the development of an update to the 2008 Transportation Strategic Plan. The need for a new and updated plan was in part a response to the many changes to the transportation network, population growth, and increases to densities over the past 12 years. The new plan will support Smart Development principles and will also address new City priorities, such as Vision Zero Surrey, the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain along Fraser Highway, and the City's Climate Action Strategy.

DISCUSSION

Staff have been developing a comprehensive work plan to deliver the new Plan, which will be renamed to the Surrey Transportation Plan (the "Plan"). By early 2021, Council will receive for consideration the Plan that will set a long-term vision and decision-making framework to prioritize investments for the next 10 years. It will also include medium and long-term transportation priorities that support the vision and help move the entire city forward. Finally, it will integrate regional planning initiatives, including TransLink's Transport 2050 long-range plan and the refresh of a rapid transit vision for South of the Fraser.

Some of the key actions that staff have completed since project inception are outlined below.

Surrey Transportation Plan: Connecting People + Places

Staff identified that a renaming of the 2008 Transportation Strategic Plan was important to reflect the City's planning for a future of efficient, inclusive and safe systems of transportation across all modes. Surrey's transportation future is about connecting people to and from destinations, responding to the opportunities and challenges of change, evolving movement within a growing city, and aligning with the principles of Smart Development.

The Plan will be not only a policy-level document but also an action plan to deliver on its objectives. The tag line "Connecting People + Places" reflects a key principle of transportation associated with the Plan.

The Five Key Pillars of the Surrey Transportation Plan

The new Plan seeks to address the challenges of responding to City and global drivers of change. It will chart a path forward to provide an efficient and equitable transportation system and support a thriving, green and inclusive city. To achieve this, five foundational pillars will guide the Plan and respond to Surrey's unique context. Together they represent best practices based on a review of peer cities.

1. Grow the Transportation Network: Surrey will become a vibrant urban centre of 1 million people.

Surrey continues to be one of the fastest growing municipalities in the region. Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy projects that by 2050 Surrey will be the largest population centre in Metro Vancouver. Looking to the future is critical to the livability and economic prosperity of Surrey today and the years leading up to a City of 1 million. This pillar will focus on what a transportation network may look like to accommodate this growth and how the City will manage congestion and achieve modal choice as Surrey continues to evolve into an urban centre for Metro Vancouver.

2. Prioritize Vision Zero Surrey: Human life is valued above all else in the City's transportation network.

At the January 30, 2019 Regular Council meeting, as part of Corporate Report No. R010; 2019 attached as Appendix "II", Council endorsed the Vision Zero Surrey: Safe Mobility Plan. This set a direction for the City to work towards eliminating killed and serious injuries collisions on Surrey's streets through strategic actions and investments. Including this pillar in the Plan underlies the City's commitment to road safety as integral to every aspect of Surrey's transportation system.

3. Tackle the Climate Crisis: Tackling the climate crisis requires decisive action on how we get around.

At the November 4, 2019 Regular Council Public Hearing, Council approved resolution RES.R19-1923 declaring a climate emergency, and the Community Climate Action Strategy has set direction towards reducing greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions in Surrey. Currently, approximately 55% of Surrey’s community GHG emissions come from transportation. This pillar identifies that the climate crisis is an external driver of change, and that to act the City must focus on transportation’s role in combating the climate crisis and how people move in and around Surrey.

4. Innovate through Technology and New Mobility: Connected, autonomous, shared, and electric mobility options are available.

Technology is playing an important role in how people move. New mobility options will continue to shift travel choices in Surrey. These global and national trends of using technology to share vehicles, develop autonomous systems, and electrify vehicles will continue to influence how municipalities plan and operate their transportation system. This pillar will identify how technology has the potential to positively impact all aspects of Surrey’s transportation system, such as data collection, new micro-mobility options and an Intelligent Transportation System strategy.

5. Balance Equity: All members of the community should benefit from and have equitable access to the transportation network.

The City’s vision of becoming a thriving, green and inclusive city requires that equity is considered as a key pillar in the Plan. Both Surrey’s Poverty Reduction Strategy and Age Friendly Strategy for Seniors identify affordable transportation and increased transportation options as a key factor in reducing poverty and financial burden. Key to achieving equity is a transportation system that is accessible to all. The engagement process will shape how equity is defined and addressed.

State of Transportation in Surrey Today - Metrics

An important starting point in the launch of the Plan is identifying the current state of transportation in Surrey. In order to include each of the five pillars in the current state of transportation, the Plan will draw on various data metrics already being tracked through available sources, such as TransLink’s Trip Diary and Canadian Census. Sample metrics and associated pillars are identified below in Table 1.

Table 1: Current Transportation Metrics and Associated Pillars

Metric	Pillar
GHGs from transportation	Climate Crisis, Technology & New Mobility
Transit trips per capita	Grow Network, Climate Crisis, Vision Zero, Equity
Daily trips by mode	Grow Network, Climate Crisis, Vision Zero
Intersection cameras	Technology & New Mobility, Vision Zero
Killed and serious injured	Vision Zero, Equity
Annual cost of owning a vehicle	Equity, Grow Network
Percent of population with access to Frequent Transit Network	Equity, Climate Crisis, Vision Zero
Pedestrian volumes	Equity, Grow Network, Climate Crisis, Vision Zero
Population density	Grow Network, Climate Crisis, Equity

As development of the Plan continues, further refinements may be made to what is tracked and how it is measured and included in the final Plan. This will ensure that metrics associated with the pillars are established and will gauge progress being made on meeting the goals and objectives of the Plan.

Public Engagement Process

A public engagement process has been developed to support the development of the new Plan. It consists of four phases over the next 12 months, as outlined below. Evaluation measures have been developed to judge the success of the Surrey Transportation Plan public engagement process which will be shared with the team supporting the City’s Public Engagement Task Force.

Phase 1: Information Sharing

Phase 1 will focus on sharing information about the Plan’s foundational pillars, building awareness of the public engagement process and its importance, and priming the conversation by defining context and providing background. This phase will run from late February to mid-April 2020 and will help build excitement for the upcoming engagement.

Phase 2: Understanding Community Values

Phase 2 will engage the community stakeholders to understand what is important to them, mapping their values and key interests, understanding the opportunities and challenges they face related to transportation, and how they define success going forward. This phase will launch on April 16, 2020 with a speaker forum at City Hall, followed closely by the launch of a public survey, which will help shape early directions for the Plan. This phase will run until the end of June 2020 and will include open houses, community events, and a multi-stakeholder workshop.

Phase 3: Feedback on Key Approaches

Phase 3 runs from mid-September through the end of October 2020. It will involve the community and stakeholders on evaluating potential priorities, seeking feedback on concepts and key approaches to address the five pillars, and inform the Plan's vision and decision-making framework. This phase will help us to better understand resident, business and stakeholder perceptions of the potential approaches and how they address trade-offs.

Phase 4: Refinement and Confirmation

Phase 4 will be the final engagement phase, focused on receiving feedback on the draft Plan and validating the key elements to identify any gaps and address potential concerns or points for clarification.

Following refinements made in Phase 4, staff will present the Plan to Council and seek adoption of the new Plan in early 2021. The timing of the four phases is outlined in the table below.

Phase 1: Information Sharing	February – April 2020
Phase 2: Understanding Community Values	April – September 2020
Phase 3: Feedback on Key Approaches	September – December 2020
Phase 4: Refinement and Confirmation	January – March 2021

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Development of a new Plan supports the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. This new Plan will relate to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Built Environment and Neighbourhoods, Public Safety, Economic Prosperity and Livelihoods, Infrastructure, and Health and Wellness. Specifically, the update supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO"):

- Neighbourhoods and Urban Design DO2: Surrey is well-connected within the city and to the rest of the region by fast and efficient public transit and active transportation infrastructure for all ages and abilities;
- Economy DO6: Efficient land use and well-managed transportation infrastructure are in place to attract businesses and support a thriving economy;
- Transportation DO11: An integrated and multi-modal transportation network offers affordable, convenient, accessible and safe transportation choices within the community and to regional destinations; and
- Transportation DO12: Surrey residents of all ages and abilities have access to active transportation options, enabling them to participate fully in society without the use of a private automobile.

CONCLUSION

The update on the Transportation Strategic Plan is well underway and the next phase of the project will commence the public engagement. The Plan will have five foundational pillars: Grow Network, Technology & New Mobility, Climate Crisis, Vision Zero, and Equity. Staff will bring forward a Corporate Report for Council's consideration once Phase 2 of the public engagement has been completed.



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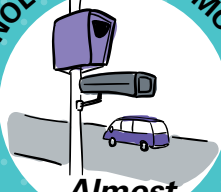
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Appendix "I" – Corporate Report No. R119; 2019
Appendix "II" – Corporate Report No. R010; 2019

Note: Appendices available upon request

Surrey is developing a new surrey transportation plan to support a future city of a million people. It will chart our course for the Next 10 years helping the city to decide how to prioritize and action key transportation investments. Our transportation future will Look very different, reflecting and responding to new opportunities and new challenges, and addressing the needs of our growing Community. Here are some facts to help understand where we are today...

TECHNOLOGY & NEW MOBILITY



Almost 500 intersection cameras

Help manage traffic flows

PEDESTRIAN VOLUMES



OVER 4,000/DAY

104 Ave. and King George Blvd. has over 4,000 pedestrian crossings on a summer day

ROAD SAFETY



20 people are killed

and 12,000 people are injured each year in Surrey

CLIMATE CRISIS



About

55% of Community GHGs

are from cars and trucks in Surrey

CAR OWNERSHIP



\$7,000 – \$11,000

Cost per year

80% of trips in Surrey are by car

3/4 of those are driving alone

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



Underground Parking

Adds \$45,000 to the cost of a home

TRANSIT TRIPS



17% growth in bus trips

in Surrey in 2018

highest in North America

15% of residents take transit to work

Only 26% of residents are within walking distance of the frequent transit network

POPULATION DENSITY



Denser than Burnaby

40% denser than City of Portland, Oregon

No longer a suburb!