

The new Transportation Strategic Plan sets out the vision, objectives and priorities for transportation in Surrey. It promotes a balanced transportation system that provides sustainable mobility choices. A core philosophy of this Strategic Plan is its integration with other key policy areas associated with the environment, health and safety, economic well-being and land use. The Plan sets objectives and strategies related to managing, maintaining and financing the transportation system in ways that are innovative, sustainable and responsive to local needs.

It has been 10 years since the City's current Transportation Plan was adopted and there have been significant changes to our City since that time. The City's population has grown by 25%, and the complexity and inter-relationship of issues associated with transportation has increased dramatically.

DISCUSSION

The transportation vision reflects Surrey's social, environmental and economic aspirations that are all key parts of building a sustainable city. The vision seeks to establish important directions and outcomes explaining what will be achieved and why it is important. The following are the key elements of the transportation vision of the proposed Plan:

- **Surrey has a transportation system that is efficient, equitable, safe and sustainable.**
- **There are more choices and better access to transportation, land uses that emphasize compact and complete communities and a modern and well-funded infrastructure.**
- **Our transportation planning will support safe, livable and healthy communities with good access to local jobs, education, services and recreation.**
- **We continue to move our transportation system forward by having an informed and engaged public, strong partnerships with others, supportive elected leaders and sustainable investment.**
- **“Transportation Working For Everyone”**

The Surrey Approach

The Transportation Strategic Plan takes a holistic approach to transportation by:

- Seeking to increase accessibility and mobility options for all sectors and sections of the community;
- Identifying where investments will be needed to complete walking, cycling, transit and road networks including completing strategic links and achieving a finer grid network for different modes of transportation;
- Increasing the safety and security of the system for both motorists and non-motorists;

- Promoting the efficient management and operation of the system for all transportation modes;
- Ensuring that the system infrastructure is well-maintained to minimize life cycle costs;
- Recognizing the funding implications of a growing and more diverse transportation asset;
- Supporting the economic vitality of the City, allowing competitiveness, efficiency and job creation;
- Protecting the environment by promoting sustainability, efficiency, and energy conservation;
- Supporting land use patterns, densities and mixes that reduce the need to travel and that promote walking, cycling and public transit modes of transportation;
- Examining and implementing where appropriate Transportation Demand Management strategies; and
- Measuring performance.

The transportation system is fundamentally linked with the form, density and location of development. The Strategic Plan explains the important relationship between land use and transportation and makes broad recommendations for sustainable growth. It is anticipated that this principle will be a major component of the Official Community Plan review and update that is currently underway.

Consultation to Develop our Vision and Strategic Plan

Consultation strategies often focus on Open Houses; however, this approach was not deemed to be appropriate for the development of the Transportation Strategic Plan. Instead efforts were focused on web- and phone-based surveys along with meetings with key focus groups. This resulted in very high participation levels and provided meaningful and representative feedback to guide development of the vision and Strategy.

A number of key principles were established for the consultation process:

- Ensure accountability to issues and ensure that feedback is reflected in the Plan;
- Engage members of the community with different transportation needs and from different sectors of the City including youth, seniors, women and people with mobility challenges;
- Employ a range of consultation methods to ensure broad and representative public comment and feedback; and
- Continue to seek feedback during the life of the Plan.

The consultation strategy consisted of three primary elements:

- **Issues and attitudes** – This was intended to develop an understanding of the main issues and priorities of the public;
- **Testing understanding** – This was focused on presenting draft strategies to the public and stakeholders and receiving further feedback to ensure the draft strategies have due regard for the original “issues and attitudes” information;

- **Confirming Completeness** – This phase focused on providing a final opportunity for the public and stakeholders to review the draft strategic plan to ensure that it was complete.

The City retained Ipsos Reid market research and public outreach specialists, to assist with key components of the consultation. The consultants undertook a telephone survey of 800 citizens of the City and facilitated four focus groups made up of citizens from different areas of the City.

A comprehensive questionnaire was posted on the City web site and promoted through the local press. Nearly 1200 citizens completed the survey. Consultation was also carried out with community groups, advocacy groups and other stakeholders including transportation providers and neighbouring municipalities. A staff advisory group including representatives from the Engineering Department, Planning and Development Department (long range, area and social planning), Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Economic Development Office guided the development of the Strategic Plan.

A summary of those involved in the consultation process is attached as Appendix II.

The feedback received from consultation contributed towards the development of the vision, objectives, strategies and service delivery actions.

Context and Integration with other City Plans

The Strategic Plan has been influenced by the policies in the Official Community Plan (OCP) and the recently developed Sustainability Charter. It is one of a number of Master City Plans and is complementary to these other plans, including, among others, the Parks Master Plan, the Sustainability Charter, the Social Plan, and the Employment Lands Strategy. Although it is a “Made in Surrey” Strategy, it has not been developed in isolation and also aligns with regional plans.

The Strategic Plan:

- Recognizes evolving and changing priorities and the increasing complexity of the transportation system;
- Identifies a more active City role in education and promotion in relation to transportation;
- Provides flexibility to respond to external influences;
- Gives attention to the benefits of maximizing the City’s sphere of influence and working in partnership with other agencies and levels of government;
- Emphasizes the need for a well maintained and managed transportation asset;
- Introduces a performance component including ambitious but achievable targets; and
- Identifies the need for a number of new implementation plans and policy updates.

The Transportation Principles

The following six principles define the framework for building a great transportation system and guided development of the Strategy:

- **Effective and Efficient Network Management**
- **More Travel Choice**
- **Safer, Healthier Communities**
- **Successful Local Economies**
- **Protection of our Built and Natural Environment**
- **Transportation Integration**

These principles featured in the examination of the issues, the development of strategies and the structure for monitoring and for communicating progress.

Early Action Items

Over the next few years, staff will develop, in consultation with the public and stakeholders, a number of “daughter” implementation plans that support and refine the objectives contained in the proposed Transportation Strategic Plan. These will include among others the Walking Plan, the Cycle Plan and the Transit Plan, which will build upon the direction contained in this Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan has identified over 100 Actions for Change. Some represent specific deliverables while others reflect a change in how the City will provide transportation services. A number have been identified as “Early Actions for Change” and work will commence on accomplishing these actions as soon as the Strategic Plan is approved.

The “Early Actions for Change” include:

- Improve existing and establish new inter-agency relationships to promote joint work with key partners including TransLink, ICBC, RCMP, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (begin Q4 2008);
- Partner with TransLink to establish the alignment, technology and timing for the implementation/expansion of rapid transit in the City (begin Q4 2008);
- Establish an expanded Traffic Control Centre supported by a program of traffic signal improvements and strategic corridor upgrades (ongoing);
- Initiate early updates to major policy documents starting with the Bicycle Blueprint and Pedestrian Master Plan (begin Q1 2009);
- Undertake a review of the strategic road network “missing links” and identify priorities for completion of the planned network (begin Q1 2009);
- Commence a City-wide speed limit review allied with educational and enforcement efforts in collaboration with the RCMP and ICBC (begin Q3 2009);
- Commence an annual program of school zone improvements (begin Q3 2009);
- Undertake service reorganization related to transportation infrastructure maintenance using enhanced asset management and monitoring systems to better direct maintenance programs and achieve value for money (begin Q4 2009).

CONCLUSION

The Transportation Strategic Plan aims to promote a balanced transportation system that provides sustainable choices for the citizens of Surrey and those who do business in or visit our City. This Plan is an overarching document that will guide the development of a series of new and updated implementation plans and policies focused on achieving the transportation vision as articulated in the Strategic Plan.

The Strategy integrates with other City plans and policies associated with sustainability, the environment, health and safety, economic and social well-being and land use/development. It sets objectives and strategies to manage, maintain and finance the transportation system in ways that are innovative and sustainable, responsive to local needs and provide value for money.

The Transportation Strategic Plan calls for the introduction of a performance component that will allow staff to monitor progress and adjust programs to achieve targets. Extensive public and stakeholder consultation helped guide development of the Strategic Plan and annual surveys will ensure that the Plan is adjusted to reflect the evolving needs of the public.

Based on the above discussion, the Engineering Department recommends that Council:

- Approve the Surrey Transportation Strategic Plan, which is attached as Appendix I to this report; and
- Direct staff to proceed with the early actions identified within the Plan.

Vincent Lalonde, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

VL/JB/PB/brb

Appendix I - Surrey Transportation Strategic Plan

Appendix II - Consultation Group to Study City Of Surrey Transportation Plan

Consultation Related to the Surrey Transportation Strategic Plan

City of Surrey Advisory Group

Mark Allison – Planning and Development Department – Long Range Planning
Raul Allueva – Planning and Development Department – South Area P&D
Carrie Baron – Engineering Department – Environment
Philip Bellefontaine – Engineering Department – Transportation Planning
Jaime Boan – Engineering Department – Transportation Planning
Owen Croy – Parks Recreation and Culture Department – Parks Planning
George Fujii – Planning and Development Department – North Area P&D
Vincent Lalonde – Engineering Department – GM Engineering
Gerry McKinnon – Engineering Department – Engineering Operations
Aileen Murphy – Planning and Development Department – Social Planning
Sinisa Petrovic – Engineering Department – Traffic Operations
Mary Ann Smith – Economic Development Office
Lance Talbot – Crime Reduction Strategy Manager

Ipsos Reid – Market Research - Citizen Telephone Survey and Focus Groups:

1. Over 800 residents were surveyed by telephone.
2. Focus Groups:
 - 10 Cloverdale Area Residents
 - 10 Whalley/Guildford Area Residents
 - 10 South Surrey Area Residents
 - 10 Newton/Guildford Area Residents

WEB Survey:

1200 residents responded to the web site survey

Municipalities, Authorities and Agencies Consulted

City of Langley
Township of Langley
City of White Rock
Corporation of Delta
TransLink
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Metro Vancouver
Surrey School Board
ICBC
Surrey RCMP

29 Community and Homeowner Associations:	Other Stakeholders:
Beaver Creek Heights Neighbourhood Assoc.	British Columbia Trucking Association
Bridgeview Community Assoc.	Better Environmentally Sound Transportation
Clayton Community Assoc.	BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
Cloverdale Community Assoc.	BC Taxi Association
Cranley Place Community Assoc.	Cloverdale BIA
Crescent Beach Property Owners Assoc.	Coast Mountain Bus Company
East Clayton Property Owner's Soc.	Downtown Surrey BIA
East Newton Residents Assoc.	Environment Advisory Committee
Elgin Creek Ratepayers Association	Fraser Health Authority
Fairview Ratepayers Association	Fraser Valley Conservation Coalition
Fleetwood Community Association	Kwantlen University College
Fraser Heights Community Assoc.	Peace Arch Hospital
Friends of Kennedy Park	Seniors Network BC
Green Timbers Community Society	Simon Fraser University
Guildford Community Partners	Smart Growth BC
Morgan Creek Homeowners Assoc.	Surrey Access for All Committee
Newton Community Ratepayers Assoc.	Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities
Ocean Park Community Association	Surrey Chamber of Commerce
Panorama Community Assoc. (East)	Surrey Crime Prevention Society
Port Kells Community Association	Surrey Tourism and Convention Association
Redwood Park Neighbours Association	Surrey Memorial Hospital
Rosemary Heights Neighbourhood Committee	Transportation Advisory Committee
Semiahmoo Residents Association	Urban Development Institute
South Surrey Ratepayer's Association	Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
South Westminster Ratepayers Assoc.	British Columbia Trucking Association
Sullivan Community Association	Better Environmentally Sound Transportation
Surrey Aboriginal Cultural Society	BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association	BC Taxi Association
Whalley Community Advisory Assoc.	Cloverdale BIA