



To: Mayor and Councillors

Date: December 8, 2010

From: Victor Wei, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation

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Re: Official Community Plan (2041) Update – Transportation-Related Activities

As part of the Official Community Plan (2041) Update process, Transportation is undertaking a number of activities to ensure that the city's transportation system will continue to provide a high degree of mobility for Richmond's residents, businesses, employees, and visitors over the next 30 years based on forecast population and employment growth as well as land use changes with an emphasis on sustainable travel modes such as transit, cycling and walking.

The focus on sustainable travel modes reflects the community feedback received to date through the City's two rounds of public consultation (November-December 2009 and October 2010) as well as the on-line *Let's Talk Richmond* discussion forum that contained a number of transportation-related questions for the public to comment upon. Recurring themes include a desire for improved transit service, an expanded cycling network with greater coverage across the city and walkable neighbourhoods including enhanced accessibility.

Phase 1 of the transportation planning work, initiated in September 2010 and scheduled to be completed in January 2011, involves the development of a transportation demand forecasting model calibrated to reflect existing travel patterns (the base model) and then run with the proposed future land use changes to identify any new significant transportation improvements including transit, cycling and pedestrian connections. The estimated travel mode split (i.e., the percent of trips using vehicles, transit, cycling, walking) will also be converted to vehicular kilometres travelled (VKT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to help identify potential measures to meet the City's GHG emission reduction targets.

Phase 2 will begin in early 2011 and encompass the comprehensive description of the principles, goals, objectives, policies, and other related strategic directions for the Mobility & Access section of the OCP as well as the development of an implementation strategy for each component of the transportation network: roads, transit, cycling, and walking as well as transportation system and demand management measures. The strategies will emphasize sustainability not only of the transportation network itself but also how the city's transportation system can support a sustainable community where residents can live, work, shop, and play without the need to travel far for employment opportunities as well as daily needs. In addition, as part of this work, Transportation will research best practices for the following special topics and identify Richmond-specific measures for each area.

Special Topic	Considerations
Transit Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • future transit services (e.g., rapid bus/rail expansion, range of transit vehicles) • direct routes connecting neighbourhood service centres and new east-west routes • expansion of Canada Line capacity (e.g., three car trains, increased frequency) • integration with public car-share and bike-share facilities
Active Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-thinking street design to accommodate all road users equally (particularly walking and cycling) and all levels of personal mobility • expand and improve the existing system of sidewalks, pathways and trails with supporting amenity features (e.g., benches, plazas)
Neighbourhood Service Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve transit, cycling and walking links to/from each local service centre • improve adjacent streetscape/gathering places and create distinct character areas for each centre
Transportation Needs of Demographic Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and youth • aging population/seniors • people living with disabilities
Transportation System Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish maximum parking rate requirements for certain uses • expansion of City pay parking program
Transportation Demand Management (TDM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies to establish car-sharing and support carpooling • mandatory requirement of provision of TDM measures for developments over a certain size
Alternative Fuels/New Vehicle Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on-site plug-in facilities for electric vehicles • potential needs for hydrogen vehicles and other new technologies of power source

Transportation is co-ordinating this work with the OCP update process and timelines prescribed by Policy Planning. Staff will be providing a summary of the transportation modelling work as well as conceptual recommendations as part of an overall report on the OCP update process anticipated to be presented to Council in February 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 604-276-4131.

Victor Wei, P.Eng.
 Director, Transportation
 VW:jc

pc: TAG
 Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning