

DATE: November 5, 2019

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: IAN WELLS, GENERAL MANAGER, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: Prince George Transit Future Action Plan Review

ATTACHMENT(S): Prince George Transit Future Action Plan Engagement Plan
Prince George Transit Future Action Plan Review Presentation

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the report dated November 5, 2019 from the General Manager of Planning and Development, titled "Prince George Transit Future Action Plan Review", BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION.

PURPOSE

To provide an information update regarding the Prince George Transit Future Action Plan and engagement plan work now underway.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This project supports Council's focus areas to:

- *Make Prince George accessible and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of their age or ability;*
- *Monitor and work to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from City operations and from the community as a whole;*
- *Enhance and integrate various transportation options, including transit, cycle routes, sidewalks and trails;*
- *Prioritize infrastructure re-investment and renewal to ensure the delivery of critical recreation, emergency, transportation and utility services; and to,*
- *Encourage meaningful public participation in the City's processes and procedures, including Council's committees.*

BACKGROUND:

Prince George Transit Future Plan 2014

Envisions our community's transit network from 2014 to 2038, and describes the service and infrastructure improvements needed to achieve that vision. This plan builds on the Official Community Plan growth management and land use policies and aligns with the myPG Sustainability Plan, Age Friendly Action Plan, and Active Transportation Plan.

The Prince George Transit Future Plan, 2014 (TFP) was developed through a participatory planning process involving stakeholders and broad community consultation in 2012 and 2013. The implementation strategy in the plan identifies a number of short, medium and long-term transit system

recommendations to advance the community vision. The existing TFP provides a solid foundation of ideas and priorities for transit in our community.

Memorandum of Understanding 2020/21 to 2022/23

On June 24, 2019, City of Prince George Council approved Transit Expansion Initiatives through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) over the next three years for our community (2020 to 2022). Key future changes approved in principle through MOU (budgetary approval through Province still required) include:

- Custom (HandyDART) - Expand hours by means of supplemental services:
 - April 2020 - Supplemental service hours for weekdays.
 - April 2021 - Supplemental service hours for weekends.
- Conventional System:
 - September 2020 - 4,000 Peak Service expansion hours including:
 - Downtown to UNBC - New limited stop round trips.
 - Downtown to CNC via Spruceland - New limited stop round trips.
 - Additional off peak service improvements as determined.
 - September 2022 - 5,000 Service Hours for Continued Frequent Transit Network Corridor Development.

This MoU report included information regarding engagement with targeted groups such as post-secondary student groups that would be necessary for allocation of additional service hours, and that this plan for engagement would return to Council.

ANALYSIS:

The TFP is one quarter through its plan timeline where a number of short-term service and infrastructure priorities are accomplished and/or are actively underway.

The TFP is due for a review to ensure our implementation priorities remain on the right track with today's needs; therefore, a review identified as *Prince George Transit Future Action Plan* (TFAP) is underway. The engagement plan and development of the Transit Future *Action* Plan intends to check-in and provide an update to the existing 2014 TFP. This work will also further inform upcoming service hours (September 2020 Implementation) as approved through MoU.

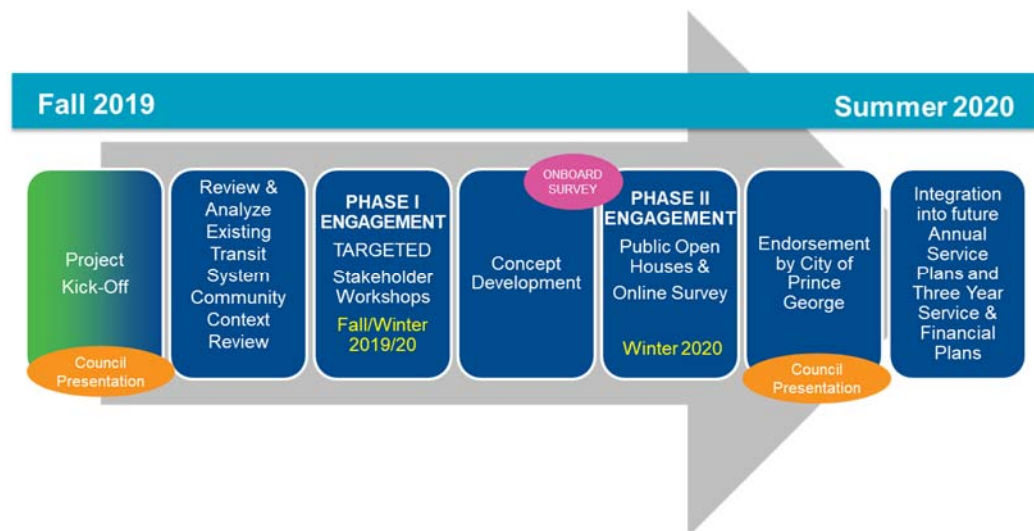
Key objectives of the Prince George TFAP will be to:

1. Itemize the TFP progress to date;
2. Review and assess progress (e.g. mode share targets);
3. Identify community changes impacting transit demand now and in next five to seven years (e.g. development growth, current and planned growth for post-secondary programs, planned changes for employers or organizations which are frequent destinations);
4. Identify and describe transit service and infrastructure priorities; and,
5. Build on relevant transportation plans and policies (e.g. OCP and BC Transit Strategic Plan).

The Prince George Transit Future *Action* Plan will be collaborative with partner, stakeholder and public input. The Action Plan will work to leverage the TFP's solid foundation along with the ongoing feedback received from existing users, residents, and students, bus stop activity, while remaining cognizant of development patterns and growth management priorities in the city.

The first phase of engagement in Transit Future Action Plans brings together a diverse selection of community stakeholders representing a broad range of interests. The second phase of engagement will occur with the broader public. The Prince George Transit Future Action Plan Engagement Plan is attached to this report.

Timeline:



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The project plan is to occur within the existing transit operations budget.

SUMMARY

This report and presentation provides Council with information regarding this project and engagement plan. BC Transit and City of Prince George Transit representatives will engage with stakeholders, partners and community members regarding a review of the Prince George Transit Future Plan to inform and develop the Transit Future Action Plan throughout Q4 2019 and into Q1 2020.

This will inform future transit priorities and infrastructure needs, inclusive of additional service hours approved by Council through Memorandum of Understanding over the next three years.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Ian Wells, General Manager, Planning and Development

PREPARED BY: Tiina Schaeffer, Manager of Sustainable Community Development

APPROVED:

Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting Date: November 18, 2019