

September
2018

STPCO UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletter #2

This second newsletter is intended to provide brief update on Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) activities that occurred during the spring and summer.

The STPCO provides the opportunity for diverse local government partners to provide a cohesive voice and transportation vision regionally. The objective of the STPCO is to promote collaboration amongst partners and senior governments, and increase uptake of sustainable modes of transportation and technology towards a more efficient use of infrastructure.

STPCO Local Government Advisory Board:

- Colin Basran, Mayor, City of Kelowna
- Doug Findlater, Mayor, City of West Kelowna
- Gail Given, Chair, Regional District of Central Okanagan
- James Baker, Mayor, District of Lake Country
- Cindy Fortin, Mayor, District of Peachland
- Chief Roxanne Lindley, Westbank First Nation



The Local Government Advisory Board met at the District of Lake Country on June 13th, 2018, and discussed the Regional Transportation Plan's vision and goals, the regional transportation network and the planning principles. More information regarding the LGA STPCO Meetings can be found in the smarttrips webpage at smarttrips.ca/stpc-meetings.

City of Kelowna
City of West Kelowna
District of Lake Country
District of Peachland
Westbank First Nation
Regional District of Central Okanagan





Connecting Our Region

Our first region-wide transportation plan



The Regional Transportation Plan will help shape the future of the Central Okanagan Region by identifying the transportation investments that will be needed for the next 20 years.

The Central Okanagan's first Regional Transportation Plan launched this year with the selection of a lead consultant and community engagement to confirm the vision and goals for the region.

The STPCO Planning & Technical Committee, representing STPCO partners and the Ministry of Transportation, selected the following firms to support plan development:

- HDR, led by Stephen Power, P.Eng., MCIP, RPP and John Hubbell, is the lead consulting firm for the project
- James Laurence Group, led by Debbie Cox, will support the public engagement and communications

Working collaboratively to ensure all communities have a voice

In April and May, more than 250 people attended four pop-up open houses in Peachland, Lake Country, Kelowna and West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation and more than 600 people completed a survey to have their say about the vision and goals for regional transportation.

Residents told us their vision includes safe, accessible and connected biking and walking routes, more transit, low cost transportation options for people of all incomes and abilities, reduced congestion and increased efficiency for vehicle travel.

In May and June, the regional partner governments reviewed the open house and survey results and added their input to the vision and goals. Their priorities include:

- efficient mobility and reduced congestion
- active transportation
- convenient and effective transit
- accessibility for all ages, incomes and abilities
- land use considerations, including density
- reducing car dependency
- economic development
- preparing for the future including electric and driverless cars and ridesharing

Strengthening economic competitiveness and quality of life

Transportation across the region provides a vital connection to jobs, markets, health care, education, recreation, shopping, emergency services and family and friends. Currently, 24% of all trips in the Central Okanagan cross municipal boundaries, as people travel from one community to another to access services and employment, including the airport, medical facilities and town centres.



A shared vision for the region

This summer, the STPCO Local Government Advisory Board, representing the partnering local governments and consisting of the Mayors, the Chief of the Westbank First Nation and the Chair of the Regional District of Central Okanagan confirmed the following vision for the Regional Transportation Plan:

"A transportation system that connects people to regional destinations within the Central Okanagan and beyond, supporting and enhancing the region's economy, social networks, and natural ecosystem."

Next steps

This fall, the project team will develop planning principles, build the preliminary evaluation framework, confirm the regional transportation network and analyze current and future conditions.



The Regional Transportation Plan project is led by the STPCO, a collaboration of City of Kelowna, City of West Kelowna, District of Lake Country, District of Peachland, Westbank First Nation, and Regional District of Central Okanagan.

STPCO NEWS

Transit Initiatives

A number of service additions and enhancements are occurring region-wide starting Sept. 2. These changes include the new **John Hindle Drive service** from downtown Kelowna to UBCO, and new Academy Way and Sexsmith Road service. The **#23 Lake County** route is expanding to provide 15-minute service frequency during the morning and afternoon peak periods. The new trial route **#31 summer service on Gellatly Road** in West Kelowna wrapped up on Sept. 1. Later this year, we will see the completion and opening of the Rutland Transit Exchange, the introduction of real time transit information and a new passenger counting system. For more information visit bctransit.com/kelowna.



Active Transportation

Bike to Work Week 2018 surpassed records in every indicator, making this the most successful year for the program. Also during the month of May, there were 12 **Bike Rodeos** throughout the Central Okanagan designed to equip youth with bicycle skills and knowledge. The **Kelowna Bikeshare Pilot**, which will inform regional bikeshare guidelines, reached 29,000 rides with 15,000 users in the first 80 days of operation. Celebrate the official opening of the **Okanagan Rail Trail** on Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. in Lake Country. The eagerly awaited trail connects the Central Okanagan to the North Okanagan through an alternative means of transportation. Learn more at kelowna.ca/okrailcorridor.

Household Travel Survey

The Regional Household Travel Survey is currently in the planning stages and anticipated to go live this fall. The **statistically significant survey** is delivered by a research firm and is the primary means to measure sustainable transportation usage in the region. The data collected is used to understand **travel demand**, gauge **mode share** trends and help assess the effectiveness and timing of **transportation investments**. The data is foundational for evidence-based policy and planning purposes at local and regional levels. Results from the last survey, conducted in 2013, can be accessed by searching Regional Household Travel Survey at smartrtrips.ca.

