

Report to Council



Date: October 28, 2019

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) Update and Regional Transportation Plan – Option Refinement and Screening

Department: Integrated Transportation

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information the report from the Strategic Transportation Planning Manager, dated October 28, 2019, with respect to an update on Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) activities and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Option Refinement and Screening (Connecting Our Region).

Purpose:

To provide Council with an update on STPCO activities and provide an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan options refinement and screening process, prior to option evaluation.

Background:

The Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) is a formal partnership of the City of Kelowna, City of West Kelowna, Districts of Lake Country and Peachland, Westbank First Nation and the Regional District of Central Okanagan. The STPCO coordinates the regional delivery of sustainable transportation programs and projects in support of common regional policy, plans and interests (economic, social and environmental). The STPCO also provides a formal forum for discussion amongst elected officials, senior and technical staff, as well as stakeholders and the general public.

Discussion:

The STPCO Work Plan is divided into the three areas of Strategic Partnerships with Senior Government, Transit Program and Delivery, and Regional Transportation Planning. In the summer and fall of 2019, activity highlights included initiating the update of the Regional Bicycling and Trails Master Plan, updating transit services for fall, launching a Bike to Work Week public engagement feedback survey and helping to promote Fall GoByBike Weeks (October 21 – November 3, 2019). Updates are described in more detail in the attached presentation and STPCO Fall 2019 Newsletter. The next STPCO Local Government Advisory Board meeting will be a facilitated workshop on November 13, 2019 to discuss the future of regional governance.

Regional Transportation Plan:

The Regional Transportation Plan is a long-range plan that will help shape the future of the Central Okanagan region by identifying the transportation investments that will be needed over the next 20 years.

Transportation across the region provides a vital connection to jobs, markets, health care, education, recreation, shopping, emergency services and family and friends.

By 2040, population in the Central Okanagan is expected to increase by 38% to approximately 277,000 people. The issues affecting all our communities – economic competitiveness, air quality, climate change, goods movement, emergency response, public health and quality of life, are all directly impacted by the transportation choices we make today. Future population growth provides both a challenge and an opportunity to find more economically and environmentally responsible ways to move goods and people across our region.

By working collaboratively, we can ensure that regional transportation supports a strong economy and quality of life in the Central Okanagan, both now and into the future.

Coordination with Other Long-Range Planning Efforts:

The Regional Transportation Plan is being coordinated with the Kelowna Transportation Master Plan (TMP), the Kelowna Official Community Plan (OCP), the Okanagan Gateway Transportation Study (OGTS), and the Central Okanagan Planning Study (COPS), among other current long-range planning efforts. Any prioritized options for regional transportation programs and investments that are made in the Regional Transportation Plan will be coordinated with these other long-range plans.

Spring 2019 Engagement:

In the spring of 2019, after option development workshops with all the Councils in the region, staff launched Let's Talk Transportation - a public engagement in-person event and online questionnaire designed to understand the values and interests of Central Okanagan residents and obtain input on potential transportation options. On April 24th, 2019 more than 90 people from across the region gathered at the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO) to take part in an in-depth conversation about the future of transportation in the region. Working in small groups, participants discussed ways to make getting around the region more accessible, more convenient and more enjoyable. They explored regional and community-specific transportation challenges and answered the question: "What do you dream about for the future of transportation?" They also took part in a World-Cafe-style discussion where they commented on potential transportation solutions for seven geographic areas of the region and added their own ideas about potential projects, programs, and policies that should be considered.

To broaden the engagement, the project team also released a multi-part, in-depth, online questionnaire. In total, 577 people responded, and provided over 1,600 individual comments. People from communities across the Central Okanagan participated in the engagement opportunities and included representatives from a wide variety of geographic areas and local organizations, as well as students, seniors, people with diverse abilities, and elected officials.

The results of the engagement are being used to inform both the Regional Transportation Plan and the Okanagan Gateway Transportation Study. A summary of the engagement is attached to this report.

Option Refinement and Screening:

This Council presentation will provide an overview of the option refinement and screening process that has occurred since the spring engagement. Since spring 2019, option ideas heard from the engagement were incorporated into the options long list, and the options were further refined using a corridor analysis approach. Resulting options were screened using the following screening questions:

1. Does improving the specific mode on this corridor segment **address an identified problem?**
2. Would a project for this mode be **consistent with the RTP goals?**
3. Would a project be **regionally significant?**
4. Would a project to support this mode be **competitive with other options?**

The presentation will share the results of the option refinement and screening process, as described in the attached presentation, with opportunities for feedback.

Conclusion:

Moving forward, the project team will finalize the list of options and evaluate them against the RTP vision and goals developed in Phase 1. Preliminary recommendations will be brought back to Council for review in spring 2020. Completion of the plan is targeted for mid 2020.

Internal Circulation:

Communications Advisor
Policy and Planning Department Manager
Transportation Planner

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Alternate Recommendation
Communications Comments:
Existing Policy:
External Agency/Public Comments:
Financial/Budgetary Considerations:
Legal/Statutory Authority:
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Submitted by: M. VanZerr, Strategic Transportation Planning Manager

Reviewed and approved by: R. Villarreal, Integrated Transportation Department Manager

Approved for inclusion:



A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Attachment 1 - STPCO Fall 2019 Newsletter

Attachment 2 - Spring 2019 Engagement Summary

Attachment 3 - STPCO Update and RTP Option Refinement and Screening Presentation

cc: A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure
C. Weaden, Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
R. Smith, Divisional Director, Planning & Development Services
R. Villarreal, Integrated Transportation Department Manager
S. Fleming, City Clerk