

NO: R075

COUNCIL DATE: May 15, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 9, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **8630-40**

SUBJECT: **Surrey Transportation Plan Phase 4 Public Engagement**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Surrey Transportation Plan (“STP”) Phase 4 engagement to support the Key 2050 Targets, as generally outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND

The STP is a crucial blueprint for the future of transportation in Surrey. In 2019, staff began the process of updating the 2008 Transportation Strategic Plan. The need for a new and updated plan was in response to a renewed emphasis on road safety, responding to climate change, new innovations in transportation technology, Surrey’s growing densities and urban form, and population growth.

After three phases of engagement, the vision endorsed for the plan is:

Connecting a million people and places with safe, inclusive, convenient, and green transportation choices for all.

Three engagement phases have guided the STP to ensure it reflects the community’s values, with the last phase expected to begin in May 2023. The timeline of all four phases is outlined below:

- Phase 1 Sharing Information: August – October 2020
- Phase 2 Understanding Community Values: October – November 2020
- Phase 3 Feedback on STP Vision and Bold Moves: June – July 2021
- Phase 4 Targets, Actions & Trade-offs: June – July 2023

DISCUSSION

Phase 4 Engagement: Targets and Action Plans

The Vision will be delivered, with Council-endorsed Bold Moves (attached as “Appendix I”), through five action plans that work towards achieving the 2050 targets outlined in the attached Appendix “II”.

The following key 2050 targets provide measurable metrics to deliver the STP vision:

- Safety: Achieving the Vision Zero Surrey Safe Mobility Plan target of zero deaths and serious injuries on the road network;
- Climate: Zero GHG emissions from personal transportation; and
- Mode Share: 50% of all trips are made by walking, biking, and transit, resulting in a less congested road network.

Phase 4 Engagement Activities

The engagement planned for Phase 4 uses a similar approach to the successful techniques in Phase 3. In alignment with the City’s Public Engagement Strategy and Toolkit, engagement is anticipated to include key stakeholder interviews, meetings and focus groups, both virtual and in-person, broad community outreach with a robust communications strategy including traditional and social media, signage in parks, community centres, an online public survey, and a scientific probability survey, with the results reflective of the overall Surrey population

Next Steps

The results of Phase 4 engagement will be reported to Council in Fall 2023 and be used to support development of the final draft plan. This last round of work is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, with the final plan to be brought forward to Council in early 2024.

CONCLUSION

Based on the feedback from Phase 3 engagement, staff have developed draft action plans to work towards the 2050 targets. The next phase of engagement will seek feedback on the action plans and trade-offs needed to achieve those targets, as outlined in this report.

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RV/BH/DB/cc

Appendix “I” – Surrey Transportation Plan – Big Vision Bold Moves
Appendix “II” – Proposed Action Plans and Understanding Trade-offs

Surrey Transportation Plan Big Vision Bold Moves

Through Corporate Report No. R118; 2021, Council endorsed the following Big Vision and Bold Moves.

Big Vision

The vision statement represents where the City wants to be with the future of transportation in Surrey. This future vision directly supports the City’s overall vision for “A Thriving, Green, Inclusive City”, as established by the City’s Sustainability Charter 2.0.

Connecting a million people and places with safe, inclusive, convenient, and green transportation choices for everyone.

Bold Moves

The four Bold Moves are the strategic goals of the plan. The Bold Moves were guided by the community values staff heard from Phase 2 Engagement and respond to Surrey’s unique context:

1. Put Safety First: Putting safety first means we value human life above all else in the transportation network by building streets that prioritize safety over the movement of vehicles.
2. Support 15-Minute Neighbourhoods: Complete the walk and bike networks for all Surrey residents that live within an easy walk or roll of their daily needs.
3. Connect Communities with Rapid Transit: Build a Rapid Transit Network that supports and connects all of Surrey’s Town Centres.
4. Invest in Green Transportation Choices: Strengthen the multi-modal grid by prioritizing walking, cycling and transit before personal vehicles.

Proposed Action Plans towards 2050 Targets

Phase 3 engagement outcomes, along with technical analysis, were used to develop specific actions the City could undertake to work towards the Bold Moves and achieve the Key 2050 Targets. The actions are grouped into five action plans, each of which includes additional targets to measure progress as summarized:

- Foundation Action Plan: Provides new accountability and reporting through targets and evidence-based prioritization and decision making.
- Pedestrian Action Plan: Proposes to prioritise improvements to the walking network around rapid transit stations, grocery stores, schools, and supporting other 15-minute neighbourhood amenities.
- Cycling Action Plan: Recommends building a functional network of protected, connected and continuous lanes for bikes and other devices in town centres, around rapid transit stations, and along key corridors connecting Surrey’s town centres.
- Transit Action Plan: Suggests the City work with TransLink to deliver significant improvements in transit service supply, including Rapid Transit to Newton, and frequent transit service every 15 minutes or better for 80% of the City’s jobs and residents.
- Goods & Vehicles Movement Action Plan: Identifies improvements to key goods movement corridors to allow for efficient and reliable travel times for all road users.

Action Plans will Support the Bold Moves

The action plans all contribute to supporting the objectives of the Council-approved Bold Moves. Some of the highlights of this, and the Phase 4 engagement connections, are described below:

Put Safety First

Actions to Put Safety First, include continued implementation of the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy, including outreach campaigns and ongoing intersection capital improvements. Phase 4 engagement will test the level of support for the changes required to deliver the proposed safety improvements.

Supporting 15-Minute Neighbourhoods

Further analysis was undertaken to help define how walking and cycling investments can support 15-minute neighbourhoods. Phase 4 will present maps of proposed 2030 walking and cycling priority networks and target areas for infrastructure improvements. The target areas include a focus on amenities that were rated the highest in Phase 3 engagement, including grocery stores, schools, and transit.

Connect Communities with Rapid Transit

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Surrey's bus ridership grew 50% in the four years from 2015 to 2019, the fastest growth in North America. Surrey residents need considerably more transit supply. As a response, Surrey's Long-Range Rapid Transit Vision will be included in Phase 4 consultation. It is important to note that TransLink has the full jurisdiction over transit service provision and the City will need to work closely with TransLink and regional municipalities to achieve this vision.

Invest in Green Transportation Choices

The action plans identify the City's initial transportation needs to invest in green transportation choices. They highlight a significant gap in transit service supply and the provision of pedestrian, cycling, and transit priority infrastructure.

Understanding Trade-Offs

Delivering the STP action plans and achieving the 2050 Targets will require important trade-offs. Engaging with the public on the types of trade-offs required to achieve these targets, such as prioritizing resources to green transportation choices and potential changes to on-street parking, along with rationale for these changes, is important for the success of the STP.