



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 7, 2017
Contact: Lon LaClaire
Contact No.: 604.873.7336
RTS No.: 12274
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 15, 2017

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Update from the Director of Transportation - November 2017

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the following report for information.

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on ongoing major transportation projects within the City of Vancouver.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

In October 2012, Council approved the Transportation 2040 plan. The plan includes specific direction to prioritize sustainable transportation modes, improve accessibility and safety for all with a focus on vulnerable road users. The plan also identifies numerous emerging areas of focus, including some of the projects identified in this report.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The projects outlined in this report reflect the City's commitment to meet the Transportation 2040 goals and targets by prioritizing projects that support sustainable transportation modes and consider safety for all road users.

REPORT

Transportation 2040 is a long-term strategic vision that helps guide transportation and land use decisions and public investments. The plan identifies long-term targets and specific actions to achieve this vision. The plan supports the Greenest City goals and other City, regional, and provincial policies. Consistent with the implementation of these policies, the following section provides an update on current transportation projects.

Arbutus Greenway

Between October 27th, 2017 and November 4th, 2017, the City invited the public to learn more about the greenway and provide feedback on emerging designs, including the proposed location of a future streetcar. The project team successfully led a two and a half day collaborative design workshop (“Arbutus Greenway Design Jam”), which was attended by 110 participants from all 22 City of Vancouver neighbourhoods.

In addition to the Design Jam, City staff had nearly 800 face-to-face conversations with residents and other stakeholders at three open houses, two community input sessions, and during project team office hours. The project team is currently in the process of synthesizing and analyzing public input, which will feed into the preferred design for the future greenway alongside technical and other considerations. Staff anticipate presenting the final Master Plan to Council in the summer of 2018.

Commercial Drive Complete Street

The Grandview-Woodland Community Plan recommends creating a complete street for people of all ages and abilities on Commercial Drive. The Commercial Drive Complete Street project aims to increase safety and comfort for people who walk, bike, take transit, and drive. Public engagement with businesses and street users from 2016 and 2017 has found that people would generally prioritize:

- Wider less cluttered sidewalks, safer crossings, more seating and gathering areas;
- Safer cycling infrastructure and more bike parking;
- More bus shelters and benches, and more reliable #20 bus service;
- On-street parking maintained, and additional parking options provided; and
- Improved loading on street and in lanes, and the creation of passenger loading zones.

Engagement with the business community is ongoing. Further community outreach, parking, traffic and transit assessment, and street concept development is planned for 2018 and 2019, with a goal of bringing a recommendation to Council in 2019. Construction would not begin until 2019 at the earliest.

Cambie Bridge Active Transportation Improvements

Transportation 2040 identified the Cambie Bridge as a high priority for walking and cycling improvements. Since the plan was adopted in 2012, walking and cycling volumes on the shared sidewalk on the east side of the bridge have continued to increase and conflicts between path users have become more frequent.

In order to increase walking and cycling capacity while reducing conflicts, staff are advancing a project to consider creating a southbound protected bike lane by reallocating a southbound motor vehicle lane. By retaining the same number of lanes for motor vehicles at signalized intersections, this can be done with no significant impact to capacity for motor vehicles.

Staff will be meeting with partners, including trucking and business groups, throughout November to discuss this in advance of a public open house late in the month. The goal is to bring a recommendation to Council in January with potential construction in the spring of 2018.

Millennium Line Broadway Extension (Broadway Subway)

The first Mayor's Forum on Construction Mitigation was held on October 23rd, 2017, with approximately 35 attendees representing a broad range of interests. This Forum will be held approximately every four months and feedback from these forums will help inform the Environmental and Socio-Economic Review of the project as well as guide the City's Station precinct principles and construction mitigation strategies (hereby referred to as principles and strategies). A business and community advisory group will be formed from this larger forum and will be more of an in depth workshop format.

It is intended that draft principles and/or strategies be taken to the business and community advisory group as well as many of the city's advisory groups depending on their level of interest in each draft document. These principles and strategies will be refined and brought forward to the Mayor's forum again in January 2018 and subsequently to the public in February in preparation for Council consideration in March. These principles and strategies will guide the content in the Master Agreement between TransLink and the City, and will ultimately be put into the requirements for proponents during the procurement process.

False Creek Flats Arterial Overpass

In 2008, the City identified the long-term need to grade-separate the rail corridor between the Port of Vancouver and the False Creek Flats to support Vancouver's role in Asia-Pacific Gateway trade. Since October 2015, staff have been working closely with project partners to identify a route to grade-separate the arterial from the rail line, and also downgrade Prior/Venables Street to a local serving street.

As the City has moved through the alignment exploration process, it has become apparent that all of the options explored to date present challenges for various project partners. The consultation and engagement of the arterial overpass was initially included as part of the *False Creek Flats Area Plan*, but was separated from the planning process when the area plan went to Council on May 17th, 2017 to allow for more community input into the process.

In early 2018, City staff will be undertaking a Community Panel for the False Creek Flats Arterial Overpass. The Community Panel and related public engagement process will provide an opportunity for a deeper conversation that will lead to a preferred arterial alignment that is recommended by the community and best meets the needs of all partners involved.

Gastown Complete Streets

The streets in Gastown need major repair and, this summer, staff began having conversations about the future of Gastown streets. City staff hosted meetings with local stakeholders and community organizations, held pop-ups on the streets to talk to passers-by, and completed the first of two intercept surveys to better understand how and why people travel to the Gastown area.

On Saturday, October 21st, 2017, the Gastown Complete Streets planning process was launched with the "Imagine Gastown" event in the Woodward's Atrium. After a welcome from Musqueam elder Shane Pointe, the City hosted a series of walking tours led by local stakeholders. Participants then gathered back together for a workshop to imagine how people might use the streets in the future and how the transportation network might support the special areas of Gastown.

City staff is working on an engagement summary that presents the big ideas and themes that were heard during the first phase of engagement. In 2018, the City will continue to work with local businesses, community organizations, and the public on a range of 'car-light' network options for Gastown that would help create even more unique and welcoming streets. Staff anticipate going to Council with a recommended option in 2019.

Georgia Gateway West Complete Street

In early November, City staff launched a transportation planning process for Georgia Street from Chilco St to Nicola St. This section of Georgia is an important gateway into Vancouver. Every day it welcomes thousands of people into the city for work and to visit Stanley Park. It also connects three neighbourhoods - the West End, Coal Harbour and Downtown.

Currently, traffic is a challenge and the street can be uninviting for people walking and cycling. The area and region are also growing. Staff will take this opportunity to examine how best to coordinate and plan the transportation network in the area. This means we want to explore how to make Georgia a 'Complete Street' that welcomes more people of all ages, abilities, and modes of travel.

In addition to meetings with local residents and stakeholders, this fall the City will be hosting pop-ups along Georgia St, a walkshop, and a public open house to learn more about how people travel and experience Georgia St. The City is also conducting an online survey open to residents throughout the region. Staff will work to develop a transportation plan for Georgia Street and will continue to work with residents, businesses and people who use the street throughout 2018. An update to council is expected in 2018.

CONCLUSION

This report provides a brief update on major transportation projects that support the implementation and goals of the Transportation 2040 plan. Each of these projects involved some level of public and stakeholder consultation in 2017 and will continue to be important projects to further engage with the public in 2018 and in some cases, into 2019 and beyond.

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