



Making a difference...together



Capital Regional District Regional Transportation Plan

Executive Summary
July 2014

Prepared for the Capital Regional District
(CRD) by IBI Group



Executive Summary

The Capital Regional District (CRD) developed a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in response to Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee and CRD Board direction to investigate the establishment of a Regional Transportation Service. Regional transportation was given priority status in the CRD Corporate Strategic Plan 2012-2014.

The RTP will guide transportation planning and development in the Capital Region over the next 25 years. The RTP identifies a desired Regional Multi-modal Network (RMN), outlines actions that will facilitate its ongoing development and details the required governance and funding mechanisms. Once implemented, the plan will help to create a transportation network that provides travel choices and supports smart growth and livable communities.

The RTP was created through a cooperative process with local government staff and representatives, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), and BC Transit. Key stakeholders were also involved, including major employers, major educational institutions, advocacy groups and private transportation service providers.

Planning and integrating transportation on a regional level creates efficiency. Infrastructure development is coordinated among all Capital Region local governments, MoTI, BC Transit and other key stakeholders. Collaborative transportation planning across organizations helps to fulfill our sustainability commitments and serve the needs of a growing population.

Process

Vision → Principals → Themes → Outcomes → Actions

Stakeholders and partners envision a regional transportation system based on a Regional Multi-modal Network (RMN), where walking, cycling and using transit are viable alternatives to driving alone in and between our population and service centres. The RMN identifies regionally significant transportation corridors including major roads and trails that provide connectivity with local and provincial networks and centres. Regional investment will be targeted towards infrastructure that supports multi-modal travel along these corridors. The RTP recognizes the diverse geography and settlement patterns in the Capital Region and provides actions that cater to both urban environments and the comparatively remote areas of the region.

The plan will come to fruition through the delivery of actions and outcomes which have been organized under the following five overarching themes, all of which require revised governance and funding arrangements.

1. Integration of land use and transportation
2. Creating exceptional environments for walking and cycling
3. Taking transit to the next level
4. Getting the most out of our roads and trails
5. Influencing travel behaviour

The plan includes concrete actions to make the RTP vision a reality. The list of actions, developed through an extensive stakeholder engagement process, includes planning initiatives and a major focus on a partnership model to implement tangible projects and infrastructure. Implementing the actions will require significant regional cooperation and strong partnerships. This cooperation and partnership is fundamental to the success of achieving the outcomes.

Governance

Embedded within the partnership model is a requirement for a transportation service authority. The service authority respects local and provincial autonomy and ownership of infrastructure. Under this model, partners come together through an ongoing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with membership from the CRD, all local municipalities and electoral areas, MoTI and BC Transit. Through its mandate, the TAC would set priorities, guide, facilitate and in some cases undertake recommended actions on the Regional Multi-modal Network based off predetermined performance metrics. Sub-regional working groups representing the West Shore, Peninsula, the Core and electoral areas would also be established to work on localized priorities and initiatives. The TAC and Sub-regional working groups would report to a new Transportation Standing Committee of the CRD Board.

With respect to BC Transit, formal consultation and engagement processes with the region would be embedded in the existing Victoria Regional Transit Commission model, in line with recommendations from the 2012 BC Transit Independent Review. Transit would not fall under the service mandate except as it relates to the consideration of multi-modal transportation issues.

Existing and proposed CRD transportation assets, facilities and services, such as Regional Trails, Electoral Area Transit Service agreements and local docks, would be consolidated into one service area under the service authority.

Implementation

The transportation service authority model would draw from existing and re-purposed funding sources to provide funding to capital projects and transportation programs on the established regional multi-modal network. A revised gas tax allocation agreement would be sought, allowing for 100% of the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) gas tax to be allocated to regionally significant projects. In addition, it is expected that by coordinating funding requests which have consensus backing, the success rate of attracting senior government funding will be greater.

Without the establishment of a regional transportation authority it can be assumed that MoTI, BC Transit, and local governments will continue to own, operate, and maintain the majority of infrastructure comprising the Regional Multi-modal Network. Under this status quo, the CRD work with these partners to advance the actions in the RTP would be limited to a planning and policy support role as per its existing Regional Information Service mandate as well as a management role for regional trails under the CRD Parks and Environmental Services mandate. Without a secure funding source and service authority, the ability to achieve the RTP actions would be limited and it is unlikely that the full vision for regional transportation would be achieved.

Summary

The Capital Region has an opportunity to make significant improvements to transportation over the next 25 years which will greatly assist in maintaining the high quality of life that residents currently experience. Technical data and transportation projections show that we need to effectively address transportation issues as our region grows in the coming years. Not doing so will result in increased congestion, reduced economic activity, increased greenhouse gas emissions and a reduced quality of life. The RTP focuses on improving transportation for residents and visitors by offering real choices about how they travel and providing them the information and skills to take advantage of these choices.

The RTP requires strong partnerships, the sharing of a common vision and implementation of common goals.