

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013**

SUBJECT **ELECTORAL AREA ENGAGEMENT ON THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this staff report is to provide Committee members with information on recent staff engagement with the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Transportation Commission and the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Economic Development Commission pertaining to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

BACKGROUND

The RTP aims to improve mobility between communities and expand the range of accessible transportation choices. The plan is now going in to its final draft stage.

The CRD has a unique relationship with SSI and SGI as it represents them both from a regional governance and local transportation perspective. As such some specific actions within the RTP are tailored uniquely to SSI and SGI while the majority of the actions are tailored to the regional transportation context.

Feedback from the Forum of Councils held on May 25, 2013, on the RTP indicated the need to engage with SSI and SGI on the Regional Transportation Plan. This report provides an outline of the engagement and the related summary of feedback. Electoral Area engagement was undertaken with the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission on June 18, 2013 and with the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission on July 22, 2013. Location specific workbooks and presentations were given to participants at both meetings.

FEEDBACK

Feedback from the SGI and SSI engagement sessions identified a number of common transportation priorities. These are listed below.

- Adoption and implementation of the **SSI Cycling Master Plan (CMP)** and completion and endorsement of **Phase 1 of the SGI trails/cycle plan**.
- Introduction/dedication of a **regional circle route** for cycling tourism and local transportation.
- Undertaking an **integrated transportation plan**, recognising the unique demographic and island location, of SSI and SGI including water based passenger services, public transit, car share program, car stop program, and active modes of transportation.
- Implementation of a Travel Demand Management Program.
- Integration of transportation authority under one body.

A more comprehensive overview of SGI and SSI feedback is presented in **Attachment 1**.

NEXT STEPS

The key feedback has been incorporated in to the RTP in the form of new actions and the strengthening of some existing actions to be more inclusive of indicated SGI and SSI needs and expectations. The RTP will be presented to the CRD Committee of the Whole on October 30, 2013 for consideration of recommended governance and implementation as well as further engagement on the plan.

SUMMARY

SGI and SSI have unique local transportation needs as a result of their relative isolation, island locale, rural nature and population profile. The transportation system needs to provide vital links to services and goods on Vancouver Island. The vision for both SSI and SGI is for an integrated and sustainable transportation system that is tailored to the local community and provides strong and frequent links between the Gulf Islands and to Vancouver Island. Actions in the Regional Transportation Plan will speak to this vision.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee receives report PPS/RSP/2013-10 titled Electoral Area Engagement on the Regional Transportation Plan for information.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

John Hicks,
Senior Transportation Planner
Regional and Strategic Planning

Marg Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
General Manager
Planning and Protective Services
Concurrence

Attachment: 1 Feedback from Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Island on the
Regional Transportation Plan.

Feedback from Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands on the Regional Transportation Plan

Salt Spring Island Transportation Priorities:

- Adoption and implementation of the **SSI Cycling Master Plan (CMP)** seen as a priority – generally improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Dedicated cycling and pedestrian connections to all ferry terminals.
- Continued improvements to the local transit system.
- Expansion of and improved infrastructure for the **car stop program**.
- Introduction/dedication of a **regional circle route** for cycling tourism and local transportation.
- Introduction of a **regional transit ticket** – good for travel on both local transit and the Victoria Regional Transit System and ideally inclusive of ferries.
- Better coordination of schedules between ferries and busses.
- Support for jurisdictional authority over **transportation under one body**.
- Desire to limit future road widening – upgrade existing spine to better accommodate cycling and walking.
- Undertake an **integrated transportation plan**, recognising the unique demographic and island location, of SSI including water based passenger services, public transit, car share program, car stop program, and active modes of transportation.
- Implementation of a Travel Demand Management Program.
- Dedicated parking authority and bylaws (to be examined as a component of an overall **local transportation plan**).

Southern Gulf Islands Transportation Priorities:

- Undertake an **integrated transportation plan**, recognising the unique demographic and island location, of SGI including water based passenger services, public transit, car share program, car stop program, and active modes of transportation.
- Proceed with the **pre-feasibility transit study** identifying possible transit options on the islands.
- Identify and examine the feasibility of alternative water based inter island passenger connections in the Southern Gulf Islands and to Vancouver Island.
- Completion and endorsement of **Phase 1 of the SGI trails/cycle plan**.
- Implement recommendations that come out of transit study.
- **Adequate parking** at or in proximity to the ferry terminals to encourage foot passengers or scheduled transit links.
- Support for jurisdictional authority over **transportation under one body**.
- Limit expansion of road network.
- Desire to **upgrade existing spine** to better accommodate cycling and walking.
- Improve cycling, pedestrian, and public transit access to CRD docks.
- Improve **parking and pick up/drop off** options at all docks.
- Promotion of **car stop program**.