

January
2019

STPCO UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletter #3

This newsletter provides a brief update on the Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) activities that occurred during fall 2018.

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 organization coordinates the regional delivery of sustainable transportation programs and projects in support of common regional policy, plans and interests (economic, social and environmental).

STPCO Local Government Advisory Board:

- Colin Basran, Mayor, City of Kelowna
- Gord Milsom, Mayor, City of West Kelowna
- Gail Given, Chair, Regional District of Central Okanagan
- James Baker, Mayor, District of Lake Country
- Cindy Fortin, Mayor, District of Peachland
- Chief Roxanne Lindley, Westbank First Nation



The STPCO also provides a formal forum for discussion amongst elected officials, senior and technical staff, as well as stakeholders and the general public. More information regarding the LGA STPCO Meetings can be found at smartrips.ca/stpc-meetings. For more information on the STPCO, contact Rafael Villarreal, rvillarreal@kelowna.ca.

City of Kelowna
City of West Kelowna
District of Lake Country
District of Peachland
Westbank First Nation
Regional District of Central Okanagan





NextRide real-time bus location technology rolls out in the Central Okanagan

Transit riders within the Kelowna Regional Transit System are now able to plan their trips more efficiently and see where their bus is along its route, all from their smartphone or desktop.

In November, members of the public and local dignitaries gathered at the Queensway Transit Exchange along with BC Transit staff to celebrate the launch of NextRide, BC Transit's real-time bus location technology.

NextRide's Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology provides customers with real-time data on the location of their bus and its predicted arrival time at a stop. NextRide operates off of a responsive website, enabling passengers to plan their trips from an internet connected mobile device or desktop.

NextRide also includes on-board enhancements, allowing customers to see and hear upcoming stop information upon approach, making BC Transit accessible to all users. NextRide data will allow BC Transit and its partners to better direct buses for schedule reliability and to more easily push alerts out to customers in the case of detours, accidents or other events that may delay regular routing.

Strategic Mapping, Inc. has been contracted to install and monitor the technology. Funding for this project is coming from the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF), which was announced in June 2016 by the federal and provincial governments. For more information, visit bctransit.com/nextride.

Regional Transportation Plan

The plan will help shape the future of the region by identifying the transportation investments needed over the next 20 years. In 2018, work was done with the STPCO regional partners, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the public to develop a vision and goals for the plan and identify the regional transportation network. In fall 2018, a presentation on regional travel trends for private vehicles, goods, transit, biking and walking was provided to the regional councils and RDCO Board. Next steps include the development and evaluation of future transportation scenarios and potential investments, with community engagement anticipated in spring 2019.



2018 Okanagan Travel Survey

The travel survey is a joint initiative of the STPCO, City of Vernon, and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. In late October, over 53,000 invitation letters were sent to households across the Central Okanagan and Vernon. Responses were received from nearly 5,000 households, with residents detailing their travels over a 24-hour period. This data will build on previous surveys done in 2007 and 2013. It provides a statistically significant snapshot of how residents of different ages, family types, and neighbourhoods get around, which is critical for planning new services and infrastructure. Survey results are anticipated in spring 2019.

Okanagan Gateway Study

The Okanagan Gateway Transportation Study will develop an integrated transportation plan to address future land use and activity growth in the areas surrounding two key regional destinations: the Kelowna International Airport (YLW) and the University of British Columbia – Okanagan (UBCO). The study will be coordinated with and help to inform the Regional Transportation Plan. Consultant procurement began in late 2018 and project completion is anticipated in 2019. The study is a joint effort of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the City of Kelowna/YLW and UBCO.



STPCO Updates



Holiday Transit Events

The month of December is the season to be giving and thinking of others. Once again, on Dec. 1 and 2, our communities came out to help Stuff a Bus. Residents brought donations of cash or non-perishable food items for local food banks to the Real Canadian Superstore locations in Kelowna and Westbank First Nation. Also, for the 16th straight year, the Santa Bus rolled through the Central Okanagan between Dec. 9 - 15. Santa and his helpers collected food, toys and cash donations from 30 stops around the region. All donations collected by the Santa Bus went to the Salvation Army's Hamper Program.

Bikeshare pilot next steps

Kelowna's Bikeshare Pilot recently completed its first season with more than 37,000 trips on fewer than 350 bikes. This pilot project allowed a private operator to deliver the service within the city of Kelowna. Lessons learned will be packaged and shared with STPCO partner jurisdictions. In the future, STPCO staff will help partner jurisdictions amplify investments in bicycle and transit infrastructure by supporting regulatory exercises around bikeshare and other emerging services. STPCO staff are exploring a regional bikeshare expansion with the potential of electrified fleets to enable users to travel further. If STPCO partners are interested in establishing bikeshare within their municipalities, please email Matt Worona at mworona@kelowna.ca.

Recent Transit Initiatives

In addition to the NextRide launch in November, these are some of the transit enhancements that took place during the fall:

- Rutland Transit Exchange was completed, providing riders with new shelters and other amenities
- New service along Academy Way
- New Glenmore/UBCO route
- #23 Lake Country service was expanded
- Bear Creek/Rose Valley service was restructured to better match resources to demand