

March
2018

STPCO UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletter #1

This inaugural newsletter is intended to provide brief, quarterly updates on the Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) activities.

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The STPCO has been formally in place since 2013 through the Intermunicipal Transportation Service and Regulation Bylaw No. 10830 between the local governments of the Central Okanagan, consisting of the City of Kelowna, District of Lake Country, City of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, District of Peachland and the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

The STPCO provides the opportunity for diverse local government partners to provide a cohesive voice and transportation vision regionally. The objective of the STPCO is to promote collaboration amongst partners and senior governments, and increase uptake of sustainable modes of transportation and technology towards a more efficient use of infrastructure.

The Local Government Advisory (LGA) Board directs the work of the Partnership, and is composed of the four Mayors, the Chief, and the Chair of Regional District.

STPCO LGA:

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



For the 2018-2020 period the work of the STPCO is divided in three areas: Transit & Programs, Regional Transportation Planning, and Strategic Partnerships. For more information on the STPCO work plan please go to <https://www.smarttrips.ca/about/stpc/>

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





Regional Strategic Transportation Plan Launch

Contact: Mariah VanZerr, MVanZerr@kelowna.ca

Transportation is an inherently regional issue, as the demand for travel does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries.

Issues such as economic growth, air quality, goods movement, emergency response, public health, livability and quality of life are all directly impacted by transportation and affect all of our communities.

The Central Okanagan's first ever Regional Strategic Transportation Plan (RSTP) was launched in January, 2018. A kick-off meeting for the RSTP was held with the STPCO Planning & Technical Committee, comprised of representatives from each of the STPCO partners and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee is currently in the process of selecting a lead consultant to support the Plan.

The Pre-planning Report was completed in August 2014 and is available on the STPCO website. Pre-planning looked at the current state of transportation in the Central Okanagan and consulted with residents and elected officials to identify a collective draft set of values and vision for the region's transportation network moving forward.

The RSTP will be a highly collaborative process that involves all of the STPCO partners and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. This long-range, system level plan for transportation in the region will help answer the following question:

"What are the strategic, prioritized transportation investments that will be needed over the next 20 years to achieve the Central Okanagan Region's vision and goals for transportation?"

The RSTP will start by refining the draft transportation values and vision identified in the Pre-planning Report. It will also identify, for the first time, a regional transportation network that includes regionally significant roads, transit, bicycling and pedestrian facilities. The Plan will also include the development of a strategic decision-making framework, and a detailed funding, phasing and implementation plan.

Plan development will occur over two years and funding is provided by a grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities with staff support from the STPCO partners and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The first round of public consultation for the RSTP will occur this spring. Regional residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on the draft vision and values established in the Pre-planning Report as well as a draft of the Regional Transportation Network. Stay tuned for updates at smarthtrips.ca.

TRANSIT INITIATIVES

Contact: Mike Kittmer, mkittmer@kelowna.ca

Transit Real Time Information

Collaboration with BC Transit and Strategic Mapping Inc. on the real-time information project continues as we near the implementation phase. The new AVL technology includes a web-based passenger application, which will enable riders to use web browsers and smart mobile devices to see the location of their bus along its route and its predicted arrival time at an identified stop. All buses will also be equipped with automatic voice announcements and passenger information displays to inform customers of upcoming stops. The project is expected to be operational in the Kelowna Regional Transit system by the end of 2018 or early 2019.



Transit Rider Survey

BC Transit, the STPCO partners, and the operating company, First Transit, will be conducting an extensive customer satisfaction survey on the Kelowna Regional Transit system in April. The objectives of this bi-annual survey are to:

- discover opportunities to provide improved experiences for our customers and to potentially grow ridership
- learn about customers' needs and priorities
- analyze trends and use that information to recommend enhancements to the transit service in the short, medium and long term
- support proposed service changes that may be included in the Transit Future Action Plan.

handyDART Transit Survey

handyDART provides transit service to riders with diverse abilities. handyDART riders are being addressed through a comprehensive rider survey to be delivered online and in-person in April. The survey was developed through extensive consultation between STPCO staff, BC Transit, and the Accessible Transit Advisory Group. The Accessible Transit Advisory Group is made up of community service provider representatives working to assist persons with diverse abilities. It was formed by STPCO staff and BC Transit to fulfill a critical need for ongoing information from professionals representing the needs of this client group.



PARTNERSHIP



The next Local Government Advisory Board Meeting (comprised of the regional partner mayors, the Westbank First Nation Chief, and the Chair of Regional District) will be at the District of Lake Country Council Chambers on June 13th, 2018, at 1:30 PM. The meeting is open to the public. The theme of the meeting will be partnerships, governance and funding. For more information visit: <https://www.smarttrips.ca/about/stpcostpco-meetings>

On March 7th, the STPCO LGA Board sent correspondence to the Minister of Transportation (Hon. Claire Trevena) and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Hon. Selina Robinson) introducing the STPCO and inviting them to collaborate on developing a sustainable transportation system for the Central Okanagan.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

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Bike to Work & School Week

Bike to Work Week 2018 will take place from May 28th to June 3rd, and registration opens in April.

With Celebration Stations all over the region, Bike to Work encourages employees to create workplace teams and log their cycling commutes to win prizes and compete against other local organizations. Each day there will be a Celebration Station around the Central Okanagan providing free tune ups, snacks and prizes to commuters travelling to and from work.

Students across the region are invited to participate in Bike and Walk to School Week. Events are coordinated through the school with the assistance of STPCO staff.



Bikeshare Pilot

Launching in May, the Kelowna Bikeshare Pilot is an 18-month partnership with Dropbike to deliver 500-1500 shared bikes within the City of Kelowna. Bikeshare is a system of bikes located at different points in a city that can be used for one-way trips. The Pilot will test a new bikeshare technology called dockless bikeshare that has lower costs than systems in Vancouver and Toronto, allowing these systems to run with no public subsidy. The Kelowna Bikeshare Pilot will be the largest test of dockless bikeshare in Canada. Near the end of the pilot program, we intend to evaluate the feasibility of expansion to all STPCO regional partner communities, with recommendations for each member Council to consider.