

Spring  
2020

# STPCO UPDATE

Quarterly newsletter  
Published April 2020

**This newsletter provides a brief update on the Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) activities that occurred during the last several months.**

The Sustainable Transportation Partnership of the Central Okanagan (STPCO) is a formal partnership of the City of Kelowna, City of West Kelowna, District of Lake Country, District of 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 Christopher Derickson, Westbank First Nation



The STPCO also provides a formal forum for discussion among elected officials, senior and technical staff, as well as stakeholders and the general public. The latest board meeting was held in February 2020, and the next meeting is anticipated to be hosted in June. For more information, please contact Rafael Villarreal at [rvillarreal@kelowna.ca](mailto:rvillarreal@kelowna.ca) or visit [smartrips.ca/stpco-meetings](https://smartrips.ca/stpco-meetings).

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







## COVID-19 response & related changes

The rapidly changing situation around the COVID-19 response has had significant global, national, provincial and local impacts within each of our Central Okanagan communities. STPCO staff continue to monitor and adapt to the situation and are committed to keeping regional partners informed.

### What to expect in 2020

- ▶ Postponement of Travel Demand Management (TDM) programs to later in the year, including school travel training and bike rodeos
- ▶ A more digitally-centered communication and engagement approach with the community
- ▶ Postponement of spring Bike to Work & School Week to later in the year
- ▶ Continued support of transit service adaptations during this time of crisis
- ▶ Delivery of the Regional Transportation Plan is still anticipated (including a Regional Disruptive Mobility Strategy and an updated Regional Bicycling and Trails Master Plan)
- ▶ Delivery of the proposed evolution for the STPCO is also still anticipated



## Regional Transportation Plan

Development and implementation of a Regional Transportation Plan is still underway, with the schedule slightly impacted as a result of COVID-19. Dates for public and stakeholder engagement, as well as presentations to regional Councils, are currently being reviewed.

The third and final round of public engagement will look to share the draft plan and gather final comments before presenting the plan to our regional Councils for endorsement. Staff are adjusting the engagement plan to allow for a digital-only engagement model.



## Transit

Transit continues to be provided in the Central Okanagan, with some service and operational adjustments implemented in response to COVID-19. Changes include enhanced cleaning on buses and at BC Transit facilities, rear door loading, not collecting fares, limiting passenger capacity to support physical distancing, and early implementation of the summer service level. Further service changes may be expected.

More information is available at [bctransit.com/kelowna](https://bctransit.com/kelowna).

## Bike to Work & School Week

The spring 2020 event, originally scheduled for the last week of May, has been postponed in response to COVID-19 and directions of the Provincial Health Ministry. STPCO staff will work with GoByBike BC Society and our local partners to host the event at a later date when it is safe to do so.

The next event will reflect feedback heard in an online survey hosted in October 2019, with a goal to increase event participation and encourage more people to use bicycles for everyday transportation. A summary of survey results is available at [smartrtrips.ca](https://smartrtrips.ca).





# Transportation updates

## Regional Household Travel Survey results

Results of the 2018 Okanagan Travel Survey are in. This is one of the largest public surveys undertaken in the Central Okanagan and provides the most comprehensive picture to date of how people travel around the region. Nearly 11,000 people participated and logged over 30,000 trips.

One of the key findings is a decrease in the number of trips made per person since 2013. This means that despite robust growth in population and jobs, the overall number of trips made by Central Okanagan residents has remained relatively stable. Potential reasons include an aging population and changing nature of the economy (e.g. growth in online services and shopping).

While private vehicles remain the most common way people get around, transit ridership has doubled in the 11 years since the first household travel survey in 2007. The number of walking and biking trips has increased by 30 per cent in Kelowna, and 55 per cent elsewhere in the region.

The full survey report will soon be published on the smartTRIPS website. Survey data, once shared with regional partners, will provide valuable insights for years to come.

## Ride hailing

Since February 2020, the Passenger Transportation Board has approved two ride hail operators for the Okanagan region.

There are fewer than ten applications left for the Passenger Transportation board to make a decision on.

Staff continue to monitor the situation for updates on approved operators.

### Webinar: Regional Household Travel Survey results

STPCO staff will host a webinar in May to share a summary of the Regional Household Travel Survey results. Stay tuned for details.