



MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF MEASURING UP SELECT COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (MUSCC)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 04, 2021, STARTING AT 9:00 A.M.

Remote Meeting held Via Zoom

In Attendance:

PRESENT:
Accommodation Sector, Doug Andrews
Member at Large, Olivia Rey
Member at Large, Sue Lawther
Whistler Community Services Society, Jackie Dickinson
Whistler Mature Action Community, Dave Ashton
Vail Resorts, Sarah McCullough
Councillor, RMOW, Jen Ford
Manager, Planning and MUSCC Secretary, RMOW, Courtney Beaubien
Transportation Demand Management Planner, RMOW, Emma DalSanto
Planner, RMOW, Tracy Napier
Planning Analyst, RMOW, Megan Mucignat
MUSCC Recording Secretary, RMOW, Claire Thomas

REGRETS:
Vancouver Coastal Health, Dan Glover
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, Anne MacKenzie
Tourism Whistler, Meredith Kunza
Whistler Adaptive Sports Program, Chelsey Walker
Measuring Up Coordinator, RMOW, Sarah Tipler

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Dave Ashton

Seconded by Olivia Rey

That the MUSCC agenda of August 04, 2021 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Doug Andrews

Seconded by Olivia Rey

That MUSCC adopt the MUSCC minutes of March 03, 2021 once amended to include the appointment of the Chair, Sue Lawther.

CARRIED

COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Ford provided updates regarding the Whistler Development Corporation's and Whistler Housing Authority's largest development for over 10 years in Cheakamus Crossing with 100 condominium units proposed. She reported that Parcel A is well underway and completion of Parcel A is expected in one year.

PRESENTATIONS/ DELEGATIONS

Transit and
Transportation Update

RMOW's Transportation Demand Management Planner, Emma DaSanto, gave a presentation about various transit and transportation projects including the Village Gate Boulevard bus shelter accessibility expansion, the Transit Future Action Plan, the draft Whistler Custom Transit Feasibility Study, and the Whistler Active Transportation Plan:

Village Gate Boulevard Bus Shelter Accessibility Expansion:

1. The draft design was presented to MUSCC in 2020.
2. The existing bus shelter on Village Gate Boulevard not 'accessible'. The design proposal will remove the planter closest to Highway 99 and extend the bus shelter to make it accessible to wheelchairs.
3. The original bus shelter was built as part of the development of what is now the Delta Village Suites. As part of the current RMOW Development Permit process, it was discovered that the legal covenants associated with the land that the bus shelter sits on need to be revised. Staff are hoping the expansion will be completed in fall 2021 or spring 2022.

Transit Future Action Plan and Whistler Custom Transit Feasibility Study:

1. We expect to have the draft Transit Future Action Plan to Council by the end of 2021.
2. The draft Whistler Custom Transit Feasibility Study was included in the MUSCC meeting package and will feed into the Whistler Transit Future Action Plan update.
3. The Committee members did not have any specific questions or comments related to this report, but did raise the issue of regional transit and getting people to medical appointments locally and regionally.

Whistler Active Transportation Plan:

1. The Transportation Advisory Group's Active Transportation Sub-Committee is leading the process of developing the Active Transportation Plan.

2. The working definition of active transportation for Whistler includes feet (pedestrians) and wheels (bicycles, non-motorized scooters). Wheelchairs are usually “feet,” but sometimes fit in the “bicycle” category. Access to/from transit is included here because it requires either feet or wheels to get to the public transit.
3. The active transportation network includes the Valley Trail, but only the sections that facilitate transportation, not recreation. Therefore, it will include upgrades/missing lighting, on-street bicycle facilities, pedestrian facilities, wayfinding, bicycle parking and e-bike charges and marketing and enforcement.
4. An ‘Active Transportation Strategy’ has just been released by the federal government, which will offer the opportunity to possibly apply for more funding once the RMOW Transit Future Action Plan and the Active Transportation Plan are complete.
5. COVID-19 has had delayed the development process for both of these plans by a year.

Staff asked the Committee for comments on short-term (1-2 year) priorities from an active transportation and transit perspective. The Committee commented as follows:

1. Making Village Gate Boulevard bus shelter and all road intersections accessible.
2. Improving safety on the Valley Trail including speed of cyclists/e-bikes and more enforced leashed dog control.
3. Prioritizing an audit of all accessible problems so that any federal or provincial grants and funding opportunities are maximized.
4. Creating a network to mobilize elders and disadvantaged people to access medical treatment or fire evacuation logistics.

4500 Northlands
Boulevard

RMOW Planner, Tracy Napier, presented the planning process for rezoning and future development at 4500 Northlands Boulevard and 4711 Settebello Drive (to be collectively known as 4500 Northlands), which is made up of two land parcels totaling 5.2 hectares (12.85 acres).

Ms. Napier explained that Council endorsed an enhanced planning process for the site, and that staff are currently in the first of three phases, each with multiple opportunities for community engagement and input. The first phase is to set clear expectations for the timeline, to develop a common understanding of the process and the engagement opportunities, and to develop guiding principles and objectives.

She further explained the policy framework that led to the development of the draft guiding principles, shared the draft principles themselves, and asked the committee for their thoughts, ideas and input.

The Committee commented as follows:

1. General support for the draft guiding principles, and in particular guiding principle 1 to balance resort and community needs.
2. A suggestion that the project use a broad interpretation of accessibility to consider needs beyond physical impairments, and to consider needs related to visual impairments, head injuries and sensitivities to light/sound etc.
3. An appreciation for the key topic around a healthy and safe community and a suggestion that safe spaces are trauma informed and that the design panel consider trauma related matters.

Planning Update

RMOW Manager, Planning and MUSCC Secretary, Courtney Beaubien, provided an update on the RMOW's Accessibility Action Plan:

1. This project is being reframed from an accessibility policy to an accessibility action plan.
2. Considerable background work has been completed.
3. The research acknowledges that the RMOW has a significant amount of accessibility policy already embedded in its recently adopted OCP.
4. Staff examined plans and policies at other Canadian municipalities to learn of best practices and other current trends regarding accessibility in formal commitment and operational policies, design standards and technical guidelines, as well as strategies and action plans.
5. The *Accessible British Columbia Act* recently received Royal Assent and will affect the BC government first. Importantly, the act will require an organization to "develop a plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization." Reframing the project as an action plan will align the project with potential upcoming provincial requirements.
6. The RMOW will consult with key stakeholders and will seek input about proposed strategic actions, timelines and prioritization, and measuring success.
7. This project will be reviewed again at the following MUSCC meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Olivia Rey provided the following comments:

1. The intersections at Lorimer/Highway 99, Spruce Grove Way/Highway 99 and Lorimer/Northlands Boulevard raise significant challenges for wheelchair users. Traffic light buttons and ramps up/down the traffic islands are missing.

RMOW staff advised that Highway 99 is under the control of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, but staff will raise the issues with them. The Lorimer/Northlands Boulevard crossing is the responsibility of the RMOW and will be addressed in a more timely fashion.

Councillor Ford advised that the Minister of Accessibility is about to require municipalities to conduct audits that would include these issues. The previous accessibility audit was done pre-Olympics (2009) and is well overdue.

2. The new shuttle buses from Whistler Village to Rainbow Park are not accessible and the disabled parking spots at Rainbow Park are taped off.

Councillor Ford advised that the tape is there to prevent the stalls being used by people without a disabled parking permit. Also, there is an RMOW contracted contractor at the park to monitor this on weekends and statutory holidays to manage the shuttle drop off area.

RMOW staff advised that this summer the Rainbow Park parking lot and shuttle are temporary solutions. Next year, there will be more vehicle options for a park shuttle service as there will not be the limitation of movement with the Alta Lake Sewer project.

Also, next summer there will be an extension to the Valley Trail to mitigate the current steep slope from Alta Lake Road down into Rainbow Park.

Jackie Dickinson provided an update for the **Whistler Community Services Society**:

1. The WCSS delivery program, which was created because of COVID-19, will continue to be offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Also hygiene kits, donated by the WB Foundation, are available to anyone.
2. Food bank numbers have dropped, but remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic.
3. Hydration stations have been installed at various WCSS locations including the Whistler Public Library.
4. Outreach workers are once again available at the Whistler Public Library every Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, please visit the website at www.mywcss.org.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by Dave Ashton

Seconded by Jackie Dickinson

That the MUSCC meeting of Wednesday, August 04, 2021 be terminated at 10:25 AM.

CARRIED

Sue Lawther
Chair

Claire Thomas
Recording Secretary