



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) WORKSHOP 22

THURSDAY, June 3, 2020, STARTING AT 2:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting with option to attend in person at:  
Flute Room – Resort Municipality of Whistler  
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC, V8E 0X5

#### PRESENT on-line:

Mayor, J. Crompton - Chair  
RMOW, Councillor, R. Forsyth  
RMOW, Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen  
Tourism Whistler, VP Market Development & Sales, K. Goodwin  
Whistler Chamber of Commerce, Elected Director, B. MacMillan  
Citizen-at-Large, S. Pass  
Citizen-at-Large, C. Doak  
Citizen-at-Large, J. Sobieniak  
BC Transit, Senior Manager Government Relations, R. Ringma  
RMOW, General Manager of Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey  
RMOW, Acting General Manager of Resort Experience, T. Metcalf  
RMOW – TDM Planner & Recording Secretary, E. DaSanto

#### GUESTS on-line:

BC Transit, Transit Planner, B. Bullivant  
RMOW Manager Protective Service, L. DeBou  
RMOW Manager Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford  
Whistler Centre for Sustainability, S. Gordon

#### REGRETS:

RMOW, Councillor, A. De Jong  
Citizen-at-Large, B. Murray  
Whistler Blackcomb – Director of Community & Government Relations, S. McCullough  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Operations Manager, Howe Sound & Sunshine Coast, M. Braun

#### FACILITATOR:

Whistler Center for Sustainability – Executive Director, C. Ho

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by R. Forseth  
Seconded by J. Hallisey

Agenda

**That** the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) adopt the Agenda of June 3, 2020 as circulated.

CARRIED

Welcome

Tips and Tricks for using Zoom were also reviewed.  
All members and guests introduced themselves, stating what organization they represented.

## **TRANSPORTATION YESTERDAY AND TODAY PRESENTATIONS**

E. DaSanto provided an update the results of the winter 2019/2020 monitoring. The results were divided into pre-COVID19 (up to and including March 14, 2020, the last day of winter operations on Whistler and Blackcomb mountains for the 2019/2020 season), and post COVID19. Full results will be shared in the 2020 TAG Monitoring report and will be posted on [www.whistler.ca/MovingWhistler](http://www.whistler.ca/MovingWhistler) with results from previous years.

### Key Points Pre-Covid:

- The Community Life Survey showing that the trend of personal transportation choice is moving in the wrong direction - more people are choosing to drive
- Local transit ridership and revenue are growing year over year
- Bike Valet (secure event bike parking) is growing
- There is enough space for highway coaches in Day Lot 4
- Highway capacity is OK

B. Bullivant shared the results of the On-Board Passenger Intercept Survey BC Transit held February 20 – 29, 2020 (peak winter season) in Pemberton, Whistler and Squamish as a means to gather baseline data from passengers on satisfaction with the current system as an input the updating the existing Sea to Sky Transit Future Plan. The key findings include:

- Passengers are generally satisfied with the overall Whistler Transit System and drivers
- Aspects with room for improvement include availability of bus shelters – especially on Highway 99, frequency of service, trips on-time according to schedule, buses having good transfer connections with reasonable wait times and buses being overcrowded.

COVID19 effected Whistler in a very similar pattern to the rest of Canada. There was a dramatic reduction in travel by private passenger vehicle and by public transportation locally and regionally as businesses and schools closed, reduced their hours or moved on-line. Early April was the quietest time. BC Transit and the RMOW worked to move from full winter transit service to base level service by the end of March instead of the April 19th as previously planned. Transit ridership and motor vehicle travel have been growing as business are reopening.

K. Goodwin shared Tourism Whistler's summer forecast based on the BC Restart Plan. Tourism Whistler is projecting that the BC Leisure Travel market will be the first to recover. Much of this market travels by car. There currently is a reluctance to travel by bus locally and regionally. Weekends will be busier than weekdays.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS FOR SUMMER 2020 PROPOSED ACTIONS**

C. Ho presented the highlight of the "TAG Community Engagement February – March 2020 Summary Report, March 23, 2020 Final Draft" which was circulated with the agenda package.

The report describes the community input on the Whistler Transportation Action Plan actions, which was gathered through an online survey, social media and a community open house in February and March 2020. The purpose of the engagement was: 1) To

gather constructive feedback on the actions undertaken over 2017-2019 as identified by the Whistler Transportation Action Plan, and; 2) To gauge community support for transportation-based climate actions for 2020 and beyond.

Overall, over 800 individuals provided input on the transportation topics. There were 732 survey responses: 80% of the respondents work in Whistler; 36% of them were homeowners. The largest age demographic of respondents was in the 25-34 years category.

Key Findings are:

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG):**

- Broad support for reducing GHG emissions from passenger vehicles, including increasing transit services and regional transit.

**Parking:**

- Slight majority would prefer not increasing parking fees to fund increased transit (perceived as unfairly targeting locals).
- ~50% Whistler residents supported increase in parking fees compared to 30% non-residents, and 64% of non-residents did not support increase.

**Transit**

- Strong support for regional transit
- Support for expanding Route 10 – Valley Express
- Current transit system working for most users

## SUMMER/FALL 2020 ACTIONS

RMOW staff presented a revised 2020 Summer action plan based on the results of the winter community engagement, the BC Restart Plan and the most recent data gathered related to COVID19 effects on transportation and travel.

The main revisions include:

- No changes to parking pricing in the Day Lots or Village Lots
  - o Suspend expansion of free transit to summer Fridays
  - o Suspend expansion of free secure bike parking to Fridays
  - o Suspend the reduction of the cost of monthly transit passes from \$50 to \$45
- Moving the start of peak summer parking and transit to July 1 (from June 15)
- Revise the transit schedule to better match the new transit ridership patterns
  - o Reduce transit service after midnight until Phase 4 of the BC Restart Plan
  - o Shift transit service from local routes (20's and 30's) to express routes (10)
- Prioritize building and planning infrastructure to reduce on-board time for transit (supports more Route 10-Valley Express)

TAG members discussed the essential transportation actions to support the community during the COVID19 recovery and how to build back better. There was discussion regarding maintaining a \$1/day increase in parking pricing in the Day Lots and reducing the Day Lot 4/5 monthly pass to \$15/month. TAG members agreed that for summer 2020 to maintain the day rates at \$10 and \$5/day, and to maintain the monthly pass rates at \$60 and \$30/month for Day Lots 1-3 and 4 and 5 respectively. TAG also agreed to consider a price change for winter 2020/2021 after reviewing the summer 2020 monitoring results.

Moved by S. Pass

Seconded J. Szobieniak

That TAG recommend the revised summer 2020 transportation action plan.

CARRIED

### **WHISTLER'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – BIG MOVES**

H. Beresford presented the Whistler's Climate Action Plan process, six big moves and goals. Moves 1, 2 and 3 focus on transportation GHGs.

**1. Electrify passenger and commercial transport**

- By 2030, 50% of all vehicle kms travelled are by zero-emission vehicles

**2. Move beyond the car**

- By 2030, 50% of all trips in Whistler are by transit and active transport

**3. Reduce visitor travel emissions**

- By 2030, Whistler demonstrates leadership in redefining tourism in a low carbon world

**ACTION:** RMOW staff will work with TAG members to get feedback on the Climate Action Plan Big Moves through an online process prior to the draft strategy being presented to Council in the summer.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- It was suggested that the Manager Environmental Stewardship become a member of TAG.
- TAG requested that the group meet more often or for a longer time period
- TAG meet in late summer to review the summer 2020 action plan results and make adjustments to the 2020/2021 winter transportation actions.

### **TERMINATION**

Motion to  
Terminate

Moved by R. Forsyth

Seconded by J. Hallisey

**That** the Transportation Advisory Group Workshop of June 03, 2020 be terminated at 3:42 p.m.

CARRIED

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CHAIR: J. Crompton

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RECORDING SECRETARY: E. DaSanto