



REPORT | ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: December 6, 2016 **REPORT:** 16-128
FROM: Infrastructure Services **FILE:** 546
SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) – 2016 UPDATE

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct the General Manager of Infrastructure Services to organize a Community Forum focused on Transportation in partnership with the Transportation Advisory Group for early 2017.

REFERENCES

None

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) including a summary of key topics reviewed, draft vision and goals, a proposed 2017 action plan and for staff to seek authorization to organize a Community Forum focused on Transportation in partnership with the TAG.

DISCUSSION

In 1996, the Resort Municipality of Whistler's (RMOW) Council formed the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) to address transportation issues in the resort community. TAG was comprised of diverse stakeholders including local residents, municipal councillors, municipal staff, representatives from Whistler-Blackcomb, Tourism Whistler, BC Transit and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (previously called Ministry of Transportation and Highways). This group guided the development of the Whistler Comprehensive Transportation Strategy (WCTS), a 350 page document delivered in two phases with input from the Whistler community and extensive review from TAG over a three year period. The brief 30 page Whistler Comprehensive Transportation Strategy Summary Report was published in September 1999.

The committee met regularly from 2000 to 2004 to facilitate and guide the implementation of the WCTS recommendations and review the transportation monitoring program. TAG was asked to participate in the development of the Whistler 2020 Transportation Strategy as well as the Olympic transportation strategy. TAG did not meet from 2012 through 2014. In response to transportation and parking pressures in 2015, it was decided to re-activate the TAG. At the October 6, 2015 regular meeting of Council, the Transportation Advisory Group's Terms of Reference were updated as per [Administrative Report 15-116, Transportation Advisory Group](#)

[\(TAG\) Updated Terms of Reference](#). Appointments to this Committee of Council were made in November 2015 based on these [revised Terms of Reference](#).

The purpose of the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG), as defined in the current Terms of Reference, is to identify transportation related issues to, from, and within Whistler, and to then provide Whistler Council with advice and recommendations regarding the assessment of, planning for, and implementation of strategic options to resolve these transportation related issues affecting the Resort Community from a social, environmental and economic point of view. With this purpose in mind, the TAG has received information on and started formulating recommendations on the following topic areas:

- Vision and Goals for Transportation in Whistler
- General transportation engineering principles, definitions and measurement related to:
 - roadway capacity, congestion, and delay
 - parking
 - transit planning
 - transportation demand management
- Highway 99 traffic operations performance measures (level of service, average daily/monthly traffic, locally generated traffic)
- Public transit and private highway coach systems
 - BC Transit and the Sea to Sky Transit Future Plan
 - Local transit performance and planned expansions
 - Sea to Sky Regional Transit Study
 - Vancouver International Airport travel options to Whistler
- Public and privately operated general-use parking within Whistler Village, the Upper Village, Base 2 and Creekside
- Summer 2016 Saturday Pilot Project
- Highway 99 traffic modelling from Horseshoe Bay to Pemberton

At the TAG November 8, 2016 action planning workshop, TAG passed the following motion:

THAT TAG recommends to Council to hold a Community Forum focused on Transportation in January 2017.

Staff support TAG’s recommendation and suggest that a Community Forum should include a condensed version of the presentations received by TAG over the past 12 months as well as share the draft vision, goals, and actions (short, medium and long-term) that TAG have been drafting. Staff also suggest that related initiatives from partner organizations such as Whistler Blackcomb, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Transit and Tourism Whistler also be included.

WHISTLER 2020 ANALYSIS

W2020 Strategy	TOWARD Descriptions of success that resolution moves us toward	Comments
Transportation	Transportation preferences and options are developed, promoted and supported so that inter-community	

	<p>mobility minimizes the negative impacts of traditional modes of travel. Residents, businesses and visitors are increasingly aware of the importance and benefits of preferred transportation choices.</p> <p>The transportation system efficiently meets both the short and long-term needs of all users.</p>	<p>Transportation congestion to, from within Whistler is once again an issue both in the winter and in the summer. Transportation infrastructure and policy affect almost all parts of the resort community. The Transportation Advisory Group, which is a composed of a group of diverse stakeholders, has been reviewing the current issues as well as data collected related the current issues and has started formulating potential recommended short, medium and long-term actions. Many of the proposed actions will need participation from stakeholders to refine and implement. The TAG members are recommending to expand the conversation about the potential actions by hosting a Community Forum.</p>
Partnership	Partners work together to achieve mutual benefit.	
Economic	<p>Effective partnerships with government and tourism organizations support economic health.</p> <p>The Whistler community shares resources and works together to compete in the destination resort market.</p> <p>Whistler is an integral part of the region's economy and works collaboratively with stakeholders.</p>	
Finance	<p>Senior levels of government recognize the value of the resort community and support its success.</p> <p>The long-term consequences of decisions are carefully considered.</p>	
Visitor Experience	Communications, travel and services are accessible, seamless and convenient at all phases of visitors' trips, from prior to departure until after returning home.	
Resident Affordability	Residents have access to affordable goods and services that meet their needs.	

W2020 Strategy	AWAY FROM Descriptions of success that resolution moves us away from	Comments
Finance	Whistler lives within its financial means.	There are costs associated with hosting public events. However, these are considered minor compared to the benefits gained from a shared vision and comprehensive action plan.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The 2016 – 2020 Five-year Financial Plan includes a budget of \$120,000 for traffic studies to support TAG in 2016, and an additional budget of \$80,000 is anticipated for 2017.

A Community Forum involves staff and consultant time, venue, advertising and notification costs which will come from the Infrastructure Services budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Staff are seeking Council authorization to organize a Community Forum focused on Transportation. The proposed format would be based on the Transportation Advisory Group meeting format with “Transportation Today” presentations to share information and space for “Transportation Tomorrow” discussion and feedback.

SUMMARY

Council updated the Terms of Reference for TAG in October 2015 and appointed members as per the updated terms in November 2015. Since then, TAG has met on six occasions. Over this period TAG has reviewed transportation engineering principles, the Sea to Sky highway’s operations and traffic modelling to/from and within Whistler, BC Transit’s partnership with the municipality in providing local and regional transit in the Whistler area, parking inventories and use of publicly available parking stalls in Whistler, and the results of the 2016 Summer Saturdays “Know and Then Go” Pilot Program.

TAG has been working on developing an updated transportation vision and set of goals for Whistler as well as a list of short, medium and long-term actions that will move Whistler towards the updated vision and goals. At their November workshop, TAG recommended that Council consider hosting a Community Forum focused on Transportation early in 2017, which is supported by staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma DalSanto
TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
for
James Hallisey, P.Eng.
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES