



REPORT | INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: May 9, 2017 **REPORT:** 17-043
FROM: Infrastructure Services **FILE:** 546
SUBJECT: 2017 DRAFT TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN – COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Information Report to Council No.17-043 regarding community feedback related to the Transportation Advisory Group's 2017 Draft Transportation Action Plan be received.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – 2017 Draft Transportation Action Plan – Community Engagement Summary Phase 1, April 4, 2017

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the community engagement and feedback related to the Transportation Advisory Group's (TAG) proposed 2017 Transportation Action Plan.

DISCUSSION

The Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) is a Select Committee of Council formed to provide advice and recommendations regarding the assessment of, planning for, and implementation of strategic options to resolve transportation related issues affecting the resort community from a social, environmental and economic point of view. TAG is composed of a group of diverse stakeholders representing the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), Whistler Blackcomb, Tourism Whistler, the Whistler Chamber of Commerce, BC Transit, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and four citizens-at-large.

On December 6, 2016, RMOW staff provided an update to Council on the Transportation Advisory Group's proposed 2017 transportation action plan. Council passed the following motion:

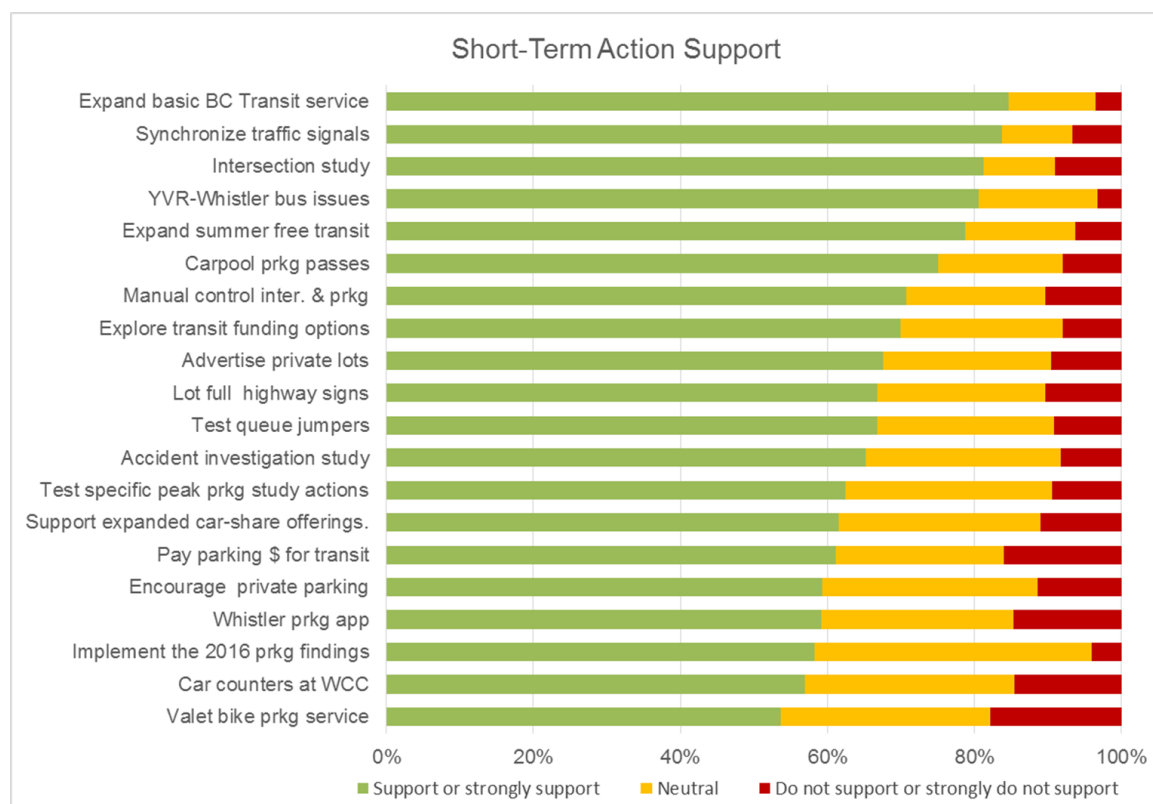
***That** Council direct the General Manager of Infrastructure Services to organize a Community Forum focused on Transportation in partnership with the Transportation Advisory Group for early 2017.*

TAG, with the support of RMOW staff, engaged the community to seek input on the recommended short-term 2017 transportation actions. The actions were categorized under five strategies and a

general “other” category. Recognizing that some solutions may require a longer planning horizon, input was sought in this “other” category for both medium-term and long-term actions.

Engagement activities kicked off on January 17, 2017 with a Community Transportation Forum at the Whistler Conference Centre from 5pm to 8pm which attracted more than 200 participants. Community engagement continued until February 7, 2017 via an online survey. A total of 517 people participated in the online survey which consisted of 21 questions and closely mirrored the line of questioning that was used at the Community Transportation Forum.

The feedback has been summarized in the 26 page report attached as Appendix A - 2017 Draft Transportation Action Plan – Community Engagement Summary Phase 1 - April 4, 2017. The graph below provides a visual summary of the overall level of support which ranged from 54% to 85% for TAG’s proposed 2017 actions.



The majority of Community Transportation Forum participants and online survey respondents supported or strongly supported all of the draft short-term strategy actions as presented. In the online survey, overall support was strongest for short-term actions relating to the Highway 99 Efficiencies and Improve Transit strategies. All actions were supported by more than half of respondents, and more than 80% of respondents were either supportive or neutral regarding all actions. No actions were unsupported by more than 18% of those surveyed. Details of each strategy area, including a summary of open-ended comments on what could make the actions even more effective, are available in the summary report.

A recurring theme throughout the online and forum comments was ensuring that actions complemented each other and worked toward the goal of easing congestion on Highway 99 and in the Village parking lots.

The Transportation Advisory Group has met to review the input and has been working at revising the proposed Transportation Action plan based on the feedback.

WHISTLER 2020 ANALYSIS

W2020 Strategy	TOWARD Descriptions of success that resolution moves us toward	Comments
Transportation	<p>Transportation preferences and options are developed, promoted and supported so that inter-community mobility minimizes the negative impacts of traditional modes of travel.</p> <p>Residents, businesses and visitors are increasingly aware of the importance and benefits of preferred transportation choices.</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 have hosted a Transportation Community Forum in January 2017 and further input has been received through an online survey hosted on www.whistler.ca/MovingWhistler for three weeks following the forum.</p>
Partnership	<p>Partners work together to achieve mutual benefit.</p> <p>Partners meaningfully engage stakeholders and practice “good governance” guided by Whistler’s Partnership Principles.</p>	
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>The long-term consequences of decisions are carefully considered.</p>	
Visitor Experience	<p>Communications, travel and services are accessible, seamless and convenient at all phases of visitors’ trips, from prior to departure until after returning home.</p>	
Learning	<p>Learning opportunities foster collaboration, trust and community engagement and build the community’s capacity for achieving Whistler’s vision of success and sustainability for future generations.</p>	
Resident Affordability	<p>Residents have access to affordable goods and services that meet their needs.</p>	

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

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Expenses related to the Community Transportation Forum and online survey, including RMOW staff and consultant time, venue rental, advertising and notification costs were either part of the 2017 Infrastructure Services operations budget or the capital program included in the 2017 – 2021 Five-year Financial Plan for traffic studies to support TAG.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

This report is a summary of the January 17, 2017 Community Transportation Forum and the subsequent online survey. All material related to the forum and TAG’s work are posted on www.whistler.ca/MovingWhistler.

SUMMARY

In December 2016, Council authorized staff to organize a community transportation forum in early 2017. The Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) hosted the Community Transportation Forum on January 17, 2017 at the Whistler Conference Centre followed up with an online survey to review the proposed 2017 Transportation Action Plan. The community feedback received is summarized in Appendix A – 2017 Draft Transportation Action Plan – Community Engagement Summary Phase 1, April 4, 2017.

TAG has met to review the input and revise the 2017 Whistler Transportation Action Plan based on the feedback received.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma DaSanto
 TDM COORDINATOR
 for
 James Hallisey, P.Eng.
 GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES