

Transportation Action Plan – Fall Update

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Today's agenda

1. Background – TAG process
2. 2017 Summer Transportation Actions and Results
3. Actions for this winter
4. 2018 / 2019 proposed Transportation Actions

TAG Vision & Goals

Whistler's transportation system efficiently and affordably moves people and products to, from and within Whistler while delivering a high quality experience and minimizing impacts on natural areas.

- **Improve customer experience in 2017/2018**
- **Integrated / holistic approach**

2017 Transportation Action Plan

By Strategy Areas:

1. Highway 99 Efficiencies
2. Transit Improvements
3. Peak Day Operations
4. Parking Management
5. Preferred Options

Current Reality



Traffic congestion



Visitor and resident complaints



Business success limited by congestion

More contribution to climate change



Whistler population in 1996



Approximately 7,000

Whistler population in 2016



Approximately 12,000

Whistler annual visitors in 1996



Approximately 1.7 million

Whistler annual visitors in 2016



Approximately 3 million

This led to

10

community partner workshops

5,000

surveys responses

500

participants at public meetings

5

professional reports

Let's Get Moving, Whistler

Over the past 20 years there have been investments in transportation but more investment is needed to address Whistler's current reality. The community transportation vision is to create an integrated transportation system that provides efficient and affordable options while minimizing environmental impact. Integrating parking and highway management, transit service, and active transportation actions addresses the current reality and reflects community support for action.

Key Research Findings



Whistler has a parking availability problem, but there is enough capacity if existing spaces are better used

About half the traffic during peak times starts in Whistler



The majority of Whistler survey respondents are supportive of the 2017 Transportation Action Plan

Congestion will be best addressed by integrated transportation solutions



2017 Actions



TRANSIT AVAILABILITY

- 1,750 more service hours and one more bus
- 10 free summer weekends with extra buses
- \$15 reduction in monthly pass
- Work with partners on Sea to Sky Regional Transit



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- More Village bike parking
- Improved Valley Trail signage and maps
- New tools for employers



PARKING AND HIGHWAY AVAILABILITY

- Direct parking revenues to increase transit and cycling opportunities
- Expand app to share parking availability
- Increase visitor YVR shuttle amenities
- Lots 1 - 3: \$10/day, \$20/day oversize

During peak season:

- Lots 4 + 5: \$5/day, \$30/month Resident - Employee Pass

Anticipated Results



- Increased availability of parking
- Increased flexibility in travel options
- Reduced highway congestion
- Reduced contributions to climate change
- Less complaints
- More business success

Medium and Long Term Actions



PARKING AND HIGHWAY AVAILABILITY

- Expand app to share parking availability
- Increase medians at hazard locations
- Promote alternatives to single occupant vehicle use



TRANSIT AVAILABILITY

- 3 new buses + 6,500 new service hours
- Reduce cost for transit
- Provide more bus shelters
- Test bus queue-jumper lane on Highway



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- Increase gear storage in Village + Creekside
- Improve cycling safety
- Build more sidewalks
- Improve pedestrian highway crossings

All details can be found at
www.whistler.ca/MovingWhistler



Resort Municipality
of Whistler



January 2017 Transportation Forum

- Majority of January Forum and survey participants supported or strongly supported all of the draft short-term actions
- Highway 99 Efficiencies received the most comments

What TAG heard from the public:

- Integrated strategy required
- **Enough studies, more action**

2017 Summer Transportation Action Plan

What changed as of July 1:

Transit:

- Free on summer weekends and holiday Mondays
- More frequent service
- \$50 monthly pass (reduced from \$65)
- Family Travel Program expanded

Cycling:

- More valley trail connections
- More bike parking in Village
- Free Secure *Bike Valet* parking on weekends

Day Lot 1 – 5 parking:

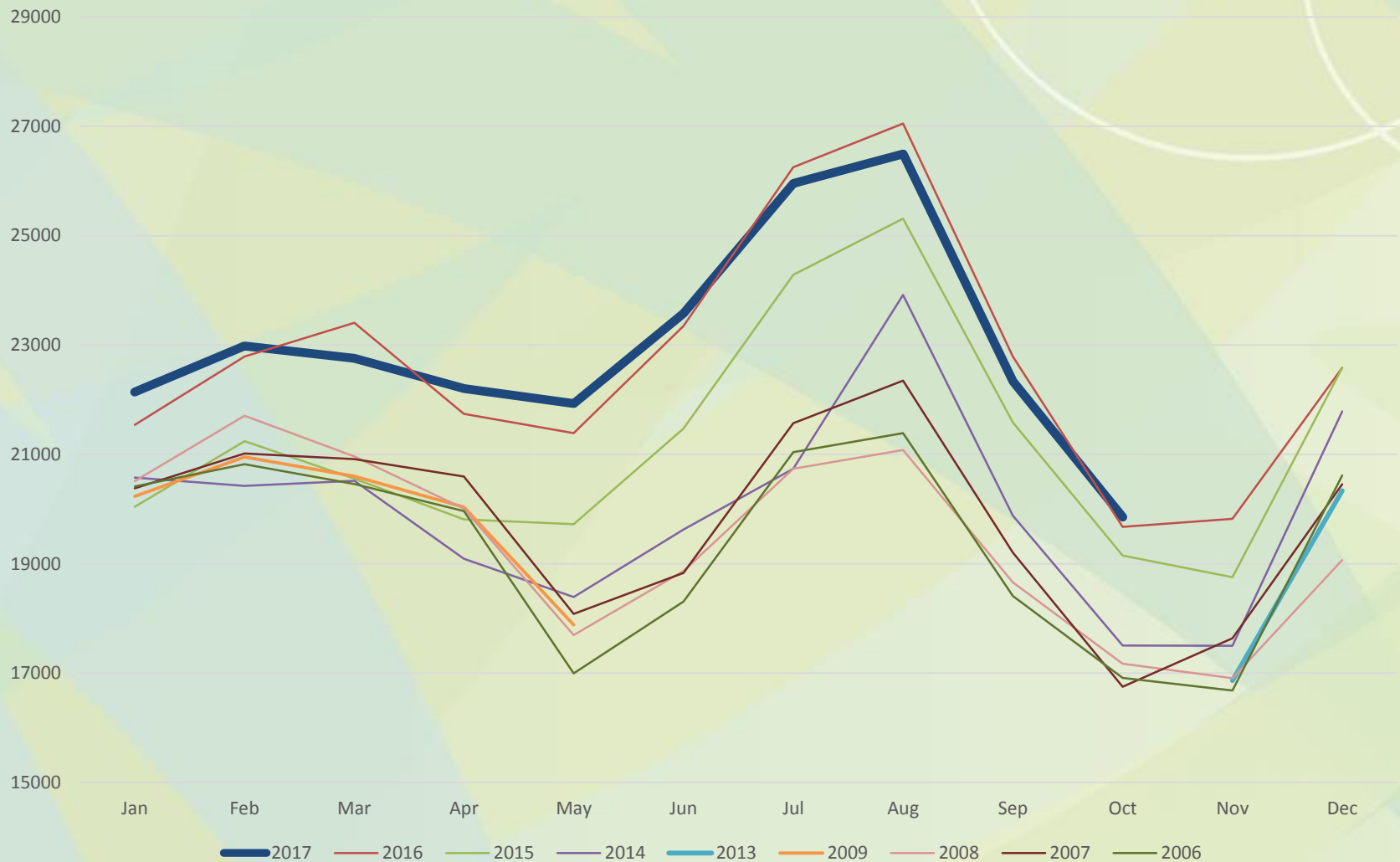
- \$5/day in Day Lots 4 & 5
- \$10/day in Day Lots 1-2-3
- \$30/month employee/resident pass in Lots 4 & 5
- \$50/month general pass Day Lots 1-2-3

Village parking:

- 2-hour max Main Street & Conference Centre
- 1-hour max Sundial Crescent
- Free after 7 p.m.

Monthly Highway Traffic Comparison

Monthly Average Daily Traffic (Hwy 99 at Brio)



2017 Summer Transportation Action Plan

Results of these actions

Increased transit ridership →

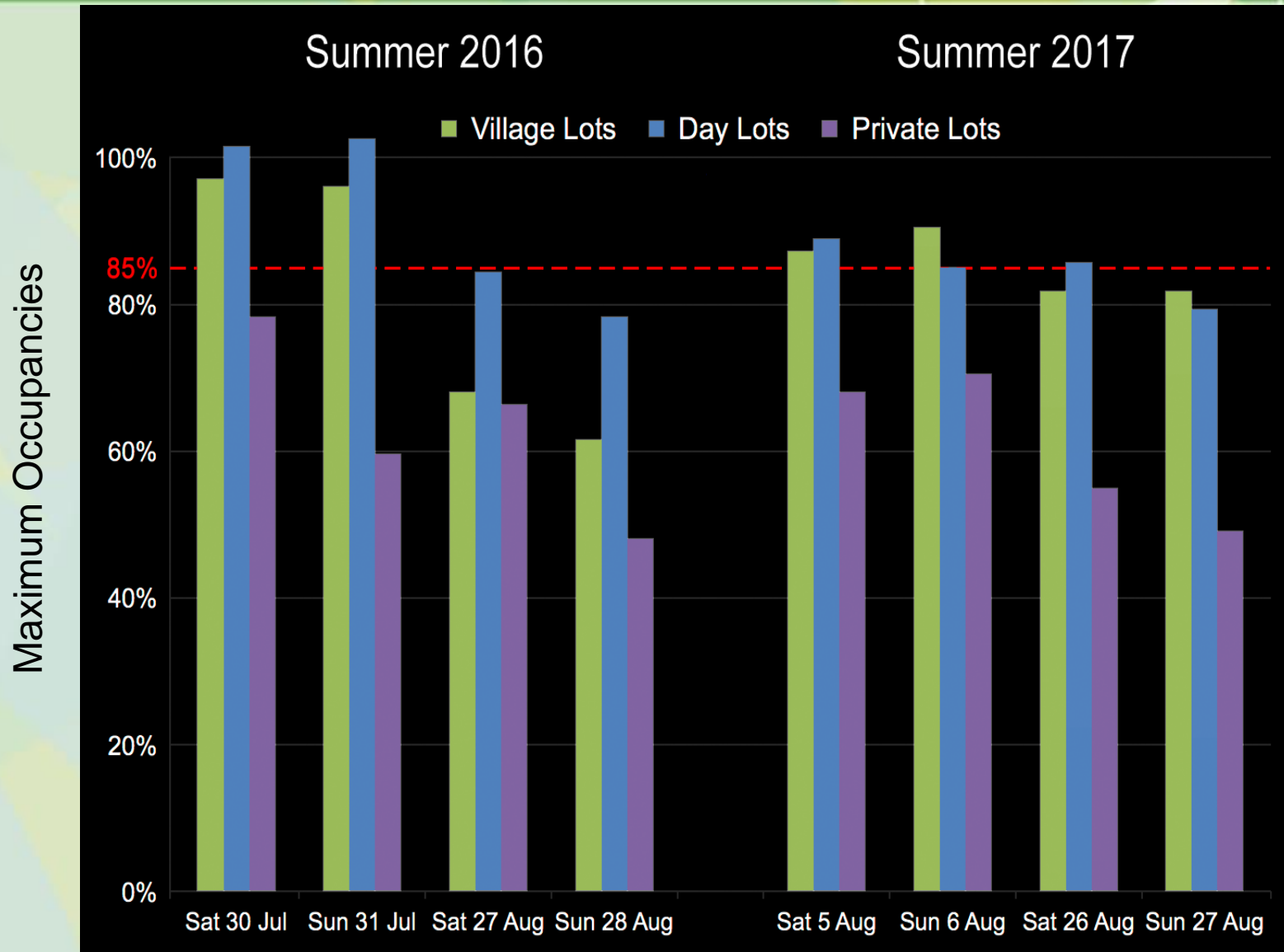
Average daily ridership	Summer 2016		Summer 2017	
	Pay	Free	Pay	Free
Saturday	3,070	4,680		5,390
Sunday	n/a			4,650
Holiday Mondays	n/a			3,930
Weekday	n/a		3,390	

Summer 2017: Days When All Lots Full

Day	2016	2017
Friday	6	1
Saturday	9	4
Sunday	9	3
Totals	24	8

← Improved Parking Availability

2016 vs 2017 Parking Comparison



2017 Summer Transportation Action Plan

Results of these actions

Secure Bike Parking well used ➡

Measurable reduction of local
vehicle trips during peak times



	July 2016		July 2017	
Highway 99 Avg. Daily Traffic at:	Southbound	Northbound	Southbound	Northbound
Brio	12,967	12,918	13,065	13,155
Function	5,652	5,900	6,965	6,913
Difference – Local vehicle trips starting and ending in Whistler	7,315	7,018	6,100	6,242

Conclusion

2017 Action Plan was Successful!

- Transit was well used
- Bike parking facilities were well used
- Local traffic on the highway was down
- Parking availability was improved

Actions this winter

Highway 99 Initiatives

- Highway Closure Protocol working group
- Regional Transit discussions with BC Transit and Provincial Government



More Transit

- Approximately double the amount of summer service
- Improved transit routes - **NEW**
- Continue reduced price (\$50/month) transit pass
- Continue expanded Family Travel Program
- Spirit Transit Pass (starting November 1) – **NEW**



More actions this winter

Carpooling-Walking-Biking

- Carpool Parking Program in Day Lots 4 and 5 - **NEW**
- Snow-clearing of Valley Trail to promote active transportation



Parking

- Continue expansion of Whistler Parking App
- Active traffic management during peak periods
- Day Lots 4 and 5
 - ✓ Dec 15 – Apr 15 (\$5/day and \$30/month employee/resident pass)



More actions this winter

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Continue focus on providing alternatives for locals!

2018-2019 Proposed Transportation Actions



Highway 99 Efficiencies



Transit Improvements



Better Parking Management



Active Transportation Options



Other

2018 spring/summer

Work with Ministry of Transportation on study to understand costs and impacts on natural areas, for highway capacity improvements from Function to Whistler Village.	Work with BC Transit to study the opportunities to improve and expand regional transit service from Pemberton/ Mt. Currie all the way to Metro Vancouver.	Monitor the winter 2017/2018 Parking Actions and review the results of the 2017 Improving Parking Availability Strategy.	Expand secure bicycle parking offerings in the Village and Upper Village, including secure overnight and event parking.	Explore peak time carpooling strategies to encourage more people to carpool to the ski hill.
Work with Sea to Sky municipalities, RCMP, to implement findings of Sea to Sky Highway Road Closure Protocol Assessment Report.	Work with Ministry of Transportation and BC Transit to develop transit queue jumper lanes as a pilot project in 2018.	Work with Tourism Whistler and Chamber to explore feasibility of expanding parking app that illustrates all available parking in Whistler.	Install Valley Trail lighting south of Blueberry.	Partner with Whistler businesses and organizations, to increase number and affordability of end of trip and storage facilities (e.g. bike & ski lockers) in Village and at Creekside.
	Provide safe trails from neighbourhoods to highway bus stops.	Develop and deliver parking inventory learning session inviting all public and private parking operators in Whistler.	Provide paved shoulders on Highway 99.	Build more neighbourhood ski-outs.
		Introduce multiple day parking passes (beginning summer 2018) and phase out monthly parking passes in 2019/2020.	Build sidewalks in Function Junction.	
		Encourage private lots and hotel owners to offer multi-day passes or carpool passes for their staff at their lots.		

2018 fall/winter

Study potential changes to Highway 99 at Britannia Beach to reduce or eliminate major highway congestion point.	Explore alternate revenue sources for funding improved transit services, including Transit contribution from other businesses or combination transit and activity pass.	Develop winter 2018/2019 carpool incentive program based on results of the 2017/2018 pilot program.	Develop and implement a marketing campaign including an incentive program to encourage people to leave their car at home.	
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2019 spring/summer

Work with MOTI to continually improve Highway 99 traffic signals with state-of-the-art network signal systems.	Develop a strategy to further reduce transit rider fares year round. Consider free youth passes for students enrolled in Whistler schools full-time.		Repaint bike lanes on highway, including north of Whistler, as part of ongoing maintenance and safety improvement.	Work with Whistler Blackcomb/Vail to develop and offer a "Whistler Card" to guests as a combo pass (including transportation to and from Whistler), to experience and get around the resort.
	Provide basic bus shelters at all highway bus stops.			

2019 fall/winter

	Start planning for free transit year-round.		Assess feasibility and RMOW actions needed for private sector to provide electric bike and other share services	Build permanent Village end-of-trip facility or reinstate existing one at Library (for active transportation and transit users).
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2018-2019 Proposed Transportation Actions

Summary of Proposed Actions over the next two years include:

- More work with TAG stakeholders to further improve infrastructure
- More work with TAG stakeholders to improve understanding of transportation changes
- Learn from the recent pilot projects and improve them for future years

Feedback

- Can be provided on the poster boards
- Can be provided at the facilitated discussion groups after this presentation
- Can be provided by email at feedback@whistler.ca

More transportation information is available at:

www.whistler.ca/MovingWhistler