



BRIEFING NOTE

To: Council

File No.: 8620-21; 16014

From: Chief Administrative Officer

Date: February 26, 2018

Subject: Courtenay Transportation Master Plan Update

ISSUE:

This briefing note is to present an update to Council on the development of the Master Transportation Plan and to announce the start of the public consultation process which will commence with an open house at the Florence Filberg Centre from 5 p.m. – 7p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

The first phase of the Transportation Master Plan was completed in the Fall of 2017. The study included collection and review of data, relevant reports and studies, as well as analysis of the existing road network, cycling and pedestrian conditions. This information was presented to Council on October 30, 2017.

Staff and consultants have been compiling land use data to inform future forecasting and preparing for Phase 2 of the project which will focus on condition assessments and identifying long term possibilities for guiding transportation decisions, policies and investments over the next 20+ years.

The project will be introduced to the community in early March by way of an open house, followed by meetings with key stakeholders in the following weeks. The input collected will inform the next phase of technical work. Stakeholders will include Comox Valley Regional District, Ministry of Transportation, Comox Valley Cycling Coalition, School District 71, Comox Valley Accessibility Committee and other groups interested in accessibility, cycling, walking, land-use/development, as well as the business community.

The key milestone phases of the project are noted below:



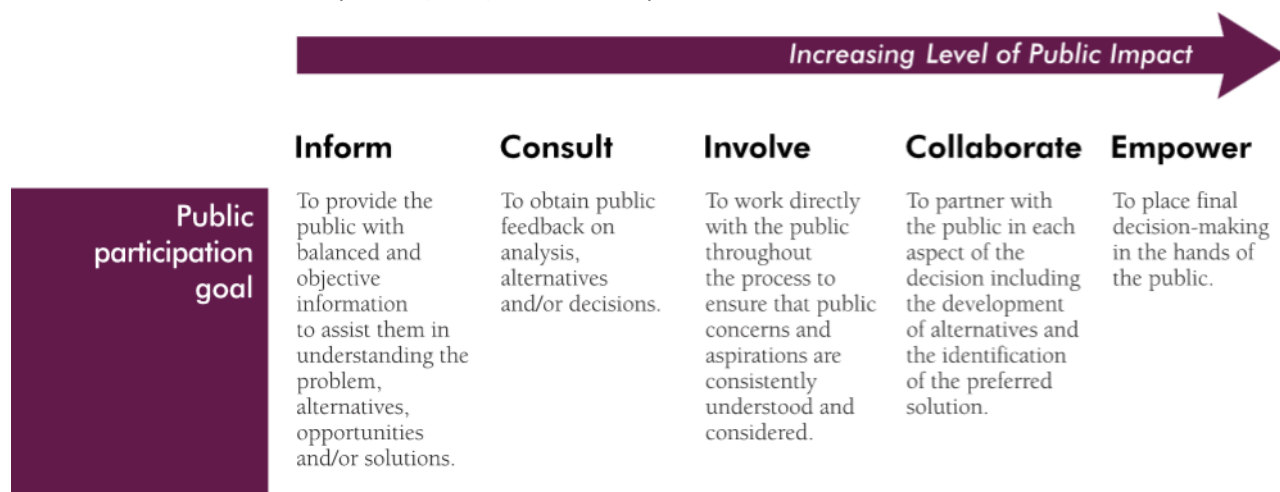
City Council will continue to receive updates as the project progresses. The final report will be presented to City Council for consideration in fall 2018.

Once approved, the Transportation Master Plan will guide transportation priorities over the next 20 years, including capital investments in roads and bridges, sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalks. Guided by both technical data and analysis and community aspirations and needs, the plan will outline a strong vision for a multi-modal network, priorities, and detail short, medium and long-term priorities for improvements.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

The daily lives of all citizens are affected by the transportation network, regardless of their mode of choice. Developing an integrated transportation network of the future requires the input and involvement from a range of community interests and perspectives. Meaningful engagement in the master planning process will ensure the plan reflects the community's needs and wants and establishes a greater foundation for public awareness and understanding for implementation of the plan over coming years.

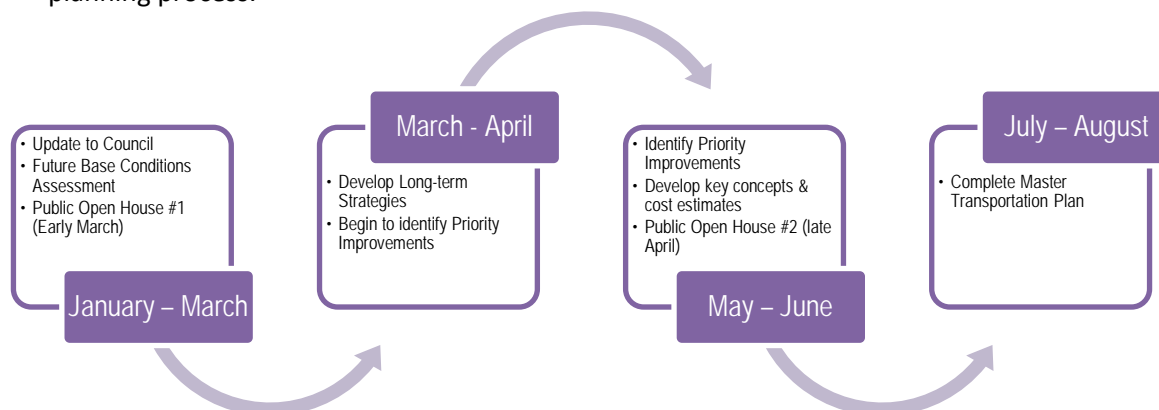
Public engagement efforts will focus the on “inform – involve” phases of the spectrum International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) values and spectrum:



Public engagement objectives:

1. Develop quality information about the existing transportation network, need and benefits of a Master Transportation Plan, the plan development process and opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement.
2. Provide context for the changing needs of community and need for long-term planning.
3. Seek to understand the transportation issues and challenges citizens experience across all modes of transportation, needs and abilities.
4. Generate ideas and strategies from the community to improve the transportation system.
5. Develop technical possibilities that address the identified issues and engage public on priorities for management and investment.
6. Demonstrate how the project supports the Regional Growth Strategy, the City of Courtenay's Official Community Plan and the vision for the transportation network to prioritize connectivity and access to daily destinations and, through a balanced approach to transportation planning, and provides all road users safe choices in their mode of transportation.

7. “Close the loop”: Demonstrate to the City Council, neighbourhood, and stakeholders what public feedback has been heard and what efforts have been made to respond to concerns through the planning process.



Upcoming engagement activities:

March 2018: Inform – Involve

- Open House about Transportation Plan and seek input on issues, challenges, and long-term possibilities
- Awareness raising through media, social media, and website
- Focused stakeholder meetings
- Community Engagement Booths set-up in high-traffic community spaces to reach others who might not traditionally attend open house
- Online survey to seek input from those who did not attend the open house
- “What We Heard” summary

June 2018: Inform – Involve

- Open House to present “long term possibilities” and seek input on priority improvements
- Focused stakeholder meetings
- Awareness raising through media, social media, and website
- Community Engagement Booths set-up in high-traffic community spaces to reach others who might not traditionally attend open house
- Online survey to seek input on long term possibilities from those who did not attend the open house
- “What We Heard” summary

Fall 2018: Inform

- Upon Council approval, share approved plan with community and stakeholders

NEXT STEPS:

City Council will be updated after the first phase of public engagement in March, and again prior to the next public engagement.

Prepared by:



Craig Perry, P.Eng.
Manager of Engineering Projects



Ryan O'Grady, P.Ag., P.Eng.
Director of Engineering Services