



CRB/CRP Regional Transit Policy Workshop

March 26, 2015

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer, AB

10 am – 3 pm

Attendees:

Calgary Regional Partnership

Mayor John Borrowman, *Town of Canmore - Chair, Transportation Committee*

Councillor Dona Fluter, *Town of Turner Valley*

Alderman Candice Kolson, *City of Airdrie*

Councillor Gail Smith, *City of Chestermere*

Councillor Michel Jackson, *Town of Black Diamond*

Councillor Ray Watrin, *Town of Okotoks*

Councillor Jim Stevenson, *City of Calgary*

Mayor Bill Robertson, *Town of Okotoks – CRP Chair*

Ettore Iannacito, *Manager of Regional Transportation, CRP*

Ruby Gill, *Communications Advisor, CRP*

Capital Region Board

Councillor Wes Brodhead, *City of St. Albert – Chair, Transit Committee*

Councillor Michael Walters, *City of Edmonton*

Mayor Gale Katchur, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*

Councillor Glen Finstad, *City of Leduc*

Councillor Gilles Prefontaine, *City of St. Albert*

Alderman Searle Turton, *City of Spruce Grove*

Councillor Brian Botterill, *Strathcona County*

Councillor Susan Evans, *Sturgeon County*

Mayor Nolan Crouse, *City of St. Albert – Chair of CRB*

Malcolm Bruce, *CEO of CRB*

Neal Sarnecki, *Manager, Regional Projects*

Sharon Shuya, *Manager, Regional Projects*

Amanda Borman, *Executive Assistant, CRB*

Alberta Transportation

Shaun Hammond, *ADM, Safety, Policy and Engineering Division*

Ashley Bhatia, *A/Manager, Transportation Corridors, Strategy and Policy Branch*

Joan Mmbaga, *Alberta Transportation*



Meeting Notes:

- 10 am **Welcome**
CRB Chair, Mayor Nolan Crouse welcomed members from the CRB Transit Committee and CRP Transportation Committee to the workshop.
- 10:15 am **Introductions**
CRB Transit Committee Chair, Councillor Wes Brodhead, and CRP Transportation Committee Chair, Mayor John Borrowman, introduced themselves as co-chairs of the workshop and then had the members around the table introduce themselves.
- 10:30 am **Regional Transit Updates**
Sharon Shuya, Regional Projects Manager with the CRB provided a background and overview of the Intermunicipal Transit program at the Capital Region Board. Ettore Iannacito, Manager of Regional Transportation at the CRP presented an overview of transit activities and initiatives by the Calgary Regional Partnership.
- 12:45 pm **Breakout Session**
Workshop members were divided into two breakout groups where they engaged in a facilitated discussion of 'How our regional organizations should seek to influence the federal and provincial governments to better support regional transit priorities?' The facilitators got the conversation going by asking three questions:
1. What are we, as a Region, trying to achieve with Intermunicipal Transit?
 2. What are the challenges/barriers to Intermunicipal Transit?
 3. What should be the priorities pursued with Provincial and Federal Governments?

Group 1	Group 2
Question 1 - What are we, as a Region, trying to achieve with Intermunicipal Transit?	Question 1 - What are we, as a Region, trying to achieve with Intermunicipal Transit?
Mobility: - Social responsibility - General public - Workers - Students Reduce congestion Increase life of infrastructure Protect environment Affordability Quality of health Reduce isolation – all age groups Movement thru region Tourism & recreation Regional Transit = Regionalization Community viability	Big picture reasons for intermunicipal transit tied to economic prosperity: - Employment opportunities - Tourism attraction - Tied to land use: - Smart growth - Enticement for industrial growth - Urban form and density - Social wellness – quality of life - TOD Fundamental component of moving people Aging in place – need mobility, connected communities Need leadership from province – dialogue on regional transit – to have it in place

Needs of changing demographic	As a region we need to help create this narrative As a region we need to plan our cities Active transportation
Question 2 - What are the challenges/barriers to Intermunicipal Transit?	Question 2 - What are the challenges/barriers to Intermunicipal Transit?
<p>Politics Quality of life Need to provide quality service, reliable Economics of infrastructure (cost) Need long term master plan – phased implementation Getting people to value transit Shift the road network plan paradigm Land use bylaw need to change Sprawling development Define public transit in the future Need long term planning in today's thinking</p>	<p>Social acceptance – ie. Peoples negative experience using transit Sharing and collaboration process among municipalities – sharing of assets Lack of creativity How to serve everyone Borders are barriers Lack of pain – easy for car drivers to move around Real cost of transit vs car usage Cost of regional transit vs benefit: - It takes a number of years for transit to take hold - User pay vs other services Governance of a regional transit system Connectivity is a challenge – routings Better job collaborating Cost sharing is challenge Expectations</p>
Question 3 - What should be the priorities pursued with Provincial and Federal Governments?	Question 3 - What should be the priorities pursued with Provincial and Federal Governments?
<p>Sell to local councils that public transit is #1 Better distribution of taxes (Sustainable) Lobby federal government Need national transit plan Leverage voice of public to advocate Working together: - CRB - CRP - AUMA - AAMDC - Etc Use elections as opportunities for our priorities Flexibility in provincial policies: - Bus on Hwy shoulders - MR at development level - Offsite levies Messaging to the public about value/cost of public transit vs alternatives</p>	<p>Need provincial policy on: - Speaks to operational funding - Infrastructure such as park and ride - Taxation to help support transit operation - Need tools and empowerment at regional and municipal level to achieve funding goals Capital side for infrastructure just to set up transit systems Specialized transit GreenTRIP can be organized for regional systems Gas tax as source to fund operations collected locally Less conditions for grants Make it tied to regional planning Need smart growth plans that prevent obstacles in the future Need to act like a region with common goals like intensification</p>



2 pm

Transportation Strategy for Alberta

Shaun Hammond, Alberta Transportation, presented the Draft Transportation Strategy for Alberta which represents the provincial vision for Alberta's transportation system over the next 50 years. The session offered insight on the province's direction to guide decisions on transportation investments, policies and programs.

The transit focused strategies within the Draft Transportation Strategy for Alberta identified two actions:

- Promote and improve public transportation services.
- Improve active transportation connections.

The actions will be developed based on three key focus areas:

- Enabling city and regional transit through strategic policies.
- Supporting rural transit strategies/plans.
- Enabling accessible, affordable and inclusive transit (i.e. for seniors and persons with disabilities, transit access for aboriginals, etc.).

2:45 pm

Call to action/Closing remarks

CRB, CRP and Alberta Transportation agreed to establish a Fall 2015 date to meet again to review and provide input into the action areas and milestones of the Transportation Strategy for Alberta.

Mayor John Borrowman
CRP Committee Chair

Councillor Wes Brodhead
CRB Committee Chair