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**

Prepared: March 30, 2015
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?

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

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<th>Question 2 - What are the challenges/barriers to Intermunicipal Transit?</th>
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| 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 | 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 |

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<th>Question 3 - What should be the priorities pursued with Provincial and Federal Governments?</th>
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| 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 | 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 |
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

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