Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan (IRTMP) Task Force

Thursday, November 28, 2019
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
La Cité Francophone, Hall Jean-Louis Dentinger
8627 Rue Marie-Anne Gaboury NW, Edmonton, AB

Task Force Members:
Gale Katchur, City of Fort Saskatchewan (Chair)
John Stewart, City of Beaumont (Vice Chair)
Tim Cartmell, City of Edmonton
Justin Laurie, Town of Stony Plain
Bill Tonita, Strathcona County
Alanna Hnatiw, Sturgeon County
Dean Litke, Alberta Transportation (Alternate)

Guests:
Teaka Broughm, City of Beaumont
Barry Chan, Alberta Transportation
Kevin Cole, Strathcona County
Gibby Davis, City of Edmonton
Madison Dube, City of Edmonton
David Hales, City of Edmonton
Gordon Harris, City of Fort Saskatchewan
Mark Hussey, City of Spruce Grove
Larissa Lindmark, Parkland County
Avril McCalla, City of Edmonton
Des Myrglod, Leduc County
Ted Nestor, Sturgeon County
Brett Newstead, Town of Stony Plain
Shawn Olson, City of Leduc
Robert Parks, Strathcona County
Jackie Porayko, Strathcona County
Grant Schaffer, City of Fort Saskatchewan
Stephen Raitz, City of Beaumont

Regrets:
Nicole Boutestein, Town of Morinville
Michael Botros, Alberta Transportation

EMRB Staff:
Karen Wichuk, Chief Executive Officer
Sharon Shuya, Director of Regional Growth Planning
Bryan Haggarty, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Operations
Debra Irving, Senior Project Manager
Dan Rose, Senior Communications Advisor
Carol Moreno, Project Coordinator

Consultants:
Stephen Power, HDR
Charlene Wilcock, HDR
Karen Gilchrist, Karen Gilchrist & Associates
1. Opening

1.1 Quorum

Quorum achieved: 5 of 7 voting members present.

1.2 Call to Order

Chair Katchur called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

1.3 Opening Remarks

Chair Katchur welcomed Task Force members and regional stakeholders. Opening remarks included a reminder of the Growth Plan as the IRTMP’s foundation, the importance of building a resilient and innovative region, and a recognition of the IRTMP Working Group members, who will offer guidance throughout the project.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: That the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan Task Force approve the November 28, 2019 meeting agenda.

Moved by: Councillor Tonita
Accepted by: Chair
Decision: Carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: That the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan Task Force approve the October 24, 2019 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Councillor Laurie
Accepted by: Chair
Decision: Carried unanimously

Mayor Hnatiw joined the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

4. Task Force Workshop

Mr. Power provided a brief introduction and an update on the Project Team’s work plan and scope of the Environmental Scan phase. Ms. Wilcock summarized the linkages of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan to the current IRTMP development process. Mr. Power reviewed the results of the previous Task Force workshop on examples of good regional transportation systems and included the Working Group’s perspective from the same exercise. Themes from that exercise included: mode choice, efficiency and intuitiveness, responsiveness to context, and ease of use. He outlined commuting trends in the Region, based on census data, and some of the rationale that inform key observations.
Mr. Power invited members of the Task Force to identify success criteria that they expect to achieve at the time the Plan is ready for approval and at a point 10 years from implementation.

Comments on the near-term goals included: addressing commute times, taking bold action, supporting the Growth Plan, enthusiastic reception and consensus, and building on the value of previous work.

Comments on the long-term goals included: seeing a modal shift, ease of commodity movement, regional investment, completing prioritized projects, using key performance metrics, opportunities for improving the quality of commutes, reduction in the impact of congestion, and reliability of commute times. Mr. Power encouraged the Task Force to manage their expectations around reducing commute times and eliminating congestion.

The Task Force brainstormed some barriers or risks that may prevent achieving these criteria for success. Comments included: coordination with other orders of government, managing local vs. regional interests, the focus and breadth of the priorities list, inability to anticipate and adapt to innovation and technology, implications of federal restrictions on commodity movement, struggles to think from a metropolitan mindset as opposed to a "traditional" approach, failure to learn lessons from other jurisdictions, inability to capitalize on game-changing opportunities, selection of appropriate partnerships, challenges with timeliness from planning to implementation, lack of communication, and land acquisition.

Break from 2:34 p.m. to 2:47 p.m.

Mr. Power led the Task Force in listing some strategies for mitigating the previously identified risks. Comments included: aligning with provincial priorities, maintaining consensus, understanding each other’s realities and perspectives, prioritizing an adaptability in system development, clarifying the concept of "regionally significant", relying on regional data and evidence for decision making, ensuring EMRB has a strong voice, and developing clear assignment of responsibilities.

5. Next Steps

Mr. Power shared that the next Task Force meeting will also employ a workshop format to start building scenarios. The Working Group will meet in December to prepare and discuss meeting materials. Task Force members discussed expectations around their level of expertise and the supporting role of the Working Group and Project Team. Chair Katchur indicated that representatives from the Working Group will be invited to sit at the Task Force table as part of future meetings.

Next Meeting:

IRTMP Task Force
January 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
La Cité Francophone, Theatre
8627 Rue Marie-Anne Gaboury NW, Edmonton, AB
6. Adjournment

Chair Katchur declared the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Task Force Chair, Gale Katchur