



CRB/CRP Regional Transit Policy Workshop

December 4, 2015

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer, AB

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Attendees:

CRB Transit Members:

Wes Brodhead, *City of St. Albert, Chair*
Dave Anderson, *Strathcona County*
Wayne Bokenfohr, *Sturgeon County*
Brian Botterill, *Strathcona County*
Bill Steinburg, *City of Spruce Grove*
Dana Smith, *City of Leduc*
Michael Walters, *City of Edmonton*
Susan Evans, *Sturgeon County*

Capital Region Board:

Mayor Nolan Crouse, *City of St. Albert, Chair of CRB*
Malcolm Bruce, *CEO*
Neal Sarnecki, *Manager, Regional Projects*
Sharon Shuya, *Manager, Regional Projects*
Amanda Borman, *Executive Assistant, CRB*

Alberta Transportation:

Honourable Brian Mason, *Minister*
Greg Bass, *Deputy Minister*
Shaun Hammond, *ADM*
Ashley Bhatia, *Director, Next Generation Transportation Systems*
Joan Mmbaga, *Policy Advisor*

CRP Transportation Members:

John Borrowman, *Town of Canmore, Chair*
Lora Peterson, *Town of Irricana*
Richard Pootmans, *City of Calgary*
Bob Sobol, *Town of Strathmore*
Ray Watrin, *Town of Okotoks*
Gail Smith, *City of Chestermere*
Dona Fluter, *Town of Turner Valley*
Michel Jackson, *Town of Black Diamond*
Candice Kolson, *City of Airdrie*
Jim Stevenson, *City of Calgary*
Ruth Goodwin, *Town of Black Diamond*

Calgary Regional Partnership:

Mayor Bill Robertson, *Town of Okotoks, Chair of CRP*
Colleen Shepherd, *Executive Director*
Ettore Iannacito, *Manager of Regional Transportation, CRP*
Alison Graf, *Program Coordinator*
Cheryl Knapp, *Program Coordinator*

Guests:

Representatives from Capital Region and Calgary Region Municipalities

Meeting Notes:

10:00 a.m. Welcome

CRB Chair, Mayor Nolan Crouse and CRP Chair, Mayor Bill Robertson welcomed members from the CRB Transit Committee and CRP Transportation Committee and guests to the workshop.

10:10 a.m. 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 invited attendees to the workshop to introduce themselves.

10:20 a.m. Regional Transit Updates

Neal Sarnecki, Regional Projects Manager with the CRB provided an overview of the recent work being undertaken by the Transit Committee of the Capital Region Board. Ettore Iannacito, Manager of Regional Transportation at the CRP gave a brief presentation of the On-It Regional Transit Pilot Project and Alison Graf, Program Coordinator presented an overview of the public engagement program for the pilot project.

11:10 a.m. Regional Transit Roundtable

Minister Mason thanked members for inviting him to the Workshop. He congratulated the successful municipal applicants on recent GreenTRIP grant funding. He advised the Workshop that the 2015 provincial budget included \$330 million dollars for new Transit Initiatives – next version of GreenTRIP, program yet to be established. The new program needs to establish the criteria that supports Regional Collaboration. Also, they will be announcing a 3rd call for submissions for GreenTRIP funding. \$415 Million is left in the GreenTRIP program, \$150 Million for CRP, \$285 Million for other municipalities within the Province. The CRB has exhausted its allocation of GreenTRIP funding.

The Minister then opened up the floor to questions.

Question/Comment	Minister Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Transit Strategy; Desire for municipalities to partner with Province, key cornerstone in Transit and Economic Development; Kneeling Buses, Overnight changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on long range Transportation Plan, going through/reviewing directions for Policy • Focus on emerging technologies and needs • Regional Public Transit Priority in the Long Range Plan • Commented on the Federal Transit Funding and its possible application



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GreenTRIP funding 3rd call, When? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open January, closed by spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$330 million in new Transit funding - for operating costs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That's the idea but no decision on what the new criteria will be • Remaining money in GreenTRIP will follow the original criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities want to be an active Partner - 3 year Business Plan, Policy Initiatives, 11 are Transit related. Are you going through consultation on funding policy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent suggestion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized Transit Needs Assessments, it's about Health Care. How do we use Health Money to support? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality is a Health issue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$415 Million uncommitted GreenTRIP dollars. Will you revisit previously rejected submissions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, please resubmit original applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate, use to work together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrots not sticks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GreenTRIP funding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$330 million is NEW money and will not go out yet • Edmonton Region is already paid out for their portion from the original GreenTRIP funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GreenTRIP, how do you weight out something collaboratively and/or direct to municipalities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political decisions have to be made, hard decision need to be made • Can't promise anything, will be fair and takes into consideration the collaborations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenline (Calgary LRT leg) still being considered? Have several smaller projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could suck up the money left but we need to be fair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When will Provincial Public Transit Policy be available for review? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be developed with the Long Range Plan • Political review is ongoing • Green light for formal consultations



	<p>happening the next 60/90 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRB/CRP first then to smaller communities moving people into major areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use (TUC), access to TUC land for transit purposes such as Park n Ride facilities - Policy decision would be appreciated 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following up on Seniors Transportation, Medical Transportations high priority for rural areas...chemo, dialysis etc. • Paralleled Transit for seniors in rural/hamlets needed/identified • Need paralleled or funding infrastructure, getting off the farms and into the major systems. • Auxiliary transportation system to get remote seniors to municipalities then into the major systems. • Lots of desire to do it but no funding stream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of 16 million for specifically rural transit • Metropolitan proponents providing buses in the sector, one is for medical reasons, hoping to supplement. • Please send information to Ministers Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOV lanes and encouraging people to use them. Two different jurisdictions, conversations to allow both groups to continue discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a part of the Long Range Plan study. • Want to see the Transit Plan integrated with the Infrastructure Plan. • Work together to plan the future, don't want wall to wall with a million interchanges. • AUMA & AAMDC involved in conversation design and cost.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Range Plan study timeline clarification - Early 2016 to review, fall 2016 for comments back from CRB/CRP? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds about right, also want some public consultations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$330 Million of new funding - same kind of criteria as GreenTRIP? Should be biggest bang for buck, smart dense communities, planning as criteria. It's 	



about smart planning and makes us accountable	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing need for the Greenline (Calgary LRT leg), stabilize growth and energy. Transit is vital to our economy. 	

11:50 a.m. Lunch

12:50 p.m. Joint Transit Initiatives & Transit Advocacy Priorities

Joint Transit Initiatives

Through a facilitated discussion the members explored the opportunities for the CRB and CRP to work together on joint transit initiatives and studies that further support regional transit.

Most of the discussion revolved around educating the various transit stakeholders on the value of transit, the cost to maintain transit systems, the link between infrastructure cost/cost to public, making transit convenient/attractive, etc.

Transit Advocacy Priorities

Through a facilitated discussion the members discussed future advocacy priorities that should be pursued with other levels of government.

The discussion was summarized into four priorities:

1. A Provincial Strategy that sets the vision and provides the support for long term planning (transit corridors) that prevent costly obstacles in the future.
2. Tools that empower regional and municipal levels to achieve funding goals that support sustainable transit (capital and operations).
3. Advocate for the benefits transit provides for health and wellness including rural transit which allows residents to stay in their communities but have access to services.
4. Educate public, municipal councils, provincial and federal leaders on the costs and benefits of transit.

2:00 p.m. Provincial Direction on Public Transit

Deputy Minister Greg Bass briefly commented on the work being undertaken by Alberta Transportation. Heard loud and clear message from members to make sure the O&M conversation is hammered out.



ADM Shaun Hammond added comments regarding a Fraser Institute study article. Just because you build the transportation does not mean people would/will use it. There is a need to have a system wide approach in consultations.

Questions/Comments for Deputy Minister	Deputy Minister Response
Public consultations but at some point we need to get something going	Ears are ringing One more round of consultation and moving quickly There is much desire to see this completed using the original timelines
Education and awareness on transit	There is certainly a place Transportation safety plan and drive down on fatalities significant reduction despite increase in drivers, roads and vehicles – education is key Will not be able to accomplish without municipalities
No consultation that we are a part of currently, that needs to be updated. We hope that the previous consultations were not in waste.	

2:40 p.m. Closing Comments

- Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) - approach for funding and support
- FCM 2017 – Collaborate to Compete (Regional Forum at FCM), consider using Ottawa to focus on transit as a theme for 2017 event. This year’s Collaborate to Compete will be held the day before FCM in Winnipeg on June 2, 2016.
- Next meeting – Unanimous support to meet again after consultation with province in the spring of 2016

2:45 p.m. Adjournment

Mayor John Borrowman
CRP Committee Chair

Councillor Wes Brodhead
CRB Committee Chair