

3.9 Transportation

An essential element in quality of life for members of a community concerns ease of movement, and ability to access all services and amenities. A range of transportation options is required to ensure that community members have opportunities to meet their needs and participate in community life.

While transportation provides a means for social connection, some forms of transportation can also have unwanted impacts. Automobile use impacts the environmental health of a community as well as the health of individuals. Vehicular traffic can negatively affect the quality of life in a neighbourhood.

As a result of a review of transportation concerns in 1990, the City developed the comprehensive approach to transportation which was summarized in the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) last updated in 1992. One of the OCP's thirteen Planning Objectives concerns transportation and gives the "highest priority to public transit, pedestrian and bicycle users" in the City's transportation system. The transportation plan supports the "livable city" and sustainable development concepts advocated by the Greater Vancouver Regional District. The City's priorities include encouraging transit improvements, limiting private vehicle use and parking, and the development of pedestrian and transit corridors, and cycling routes. It should be noted that the recently endorsed regional transit authority has the potential to create opportunities for achieving the objectives of a more effective transit system in local communities.

While two of the City's OCP goals concern encouraging better transit services and alternative types of transportation, such as walking and cycling, there are specific issues which relate to unmet needs of those with limited mobility which require special recognition. These actions will be integrated with the current OCP transportation goals when the OCP is updated.

GOAL

Improve the City's transportation system to increase responsiveness to local service needs, and address unmet access and safety issues.

Objective 1: Address unmet transit needs through system improvements and exploration of alternatives.

Actions

The City will:

1. Advocate for improved transit services, including increased weekend and holiday bus service, better east-west transit links across the North Shore, better connections at key locations, and improved handyDART service.

2. Support a collaborative process seeking to develop a locally based system to address unmet transportation needs, especially for access to recreation and social programs.
3. Cooperate with, and support, community initiatives to research and develop suitable transportation alternatives including the use of existing resources (vans and mini-buses of agencies, use of taxis) and the development of a system of feeder buses linking to the larger transit system.
4. Facilitate the development of guidelines/regulations for on-demand accessible taxi service.
5. Develop a plan for upgrading access to bus stops to accommodate accessible transportation (lift-equipped, low floor and mini buses).

Objective 2: Improve general accessibility for pedestrians, and safety and convenience at sidewalks and street crossings.

Actions

The City will:

1. Continue to develop a program for the installation of audible pedestrian traffic signals.
2. Ensure that bylaws concerning accessible parking spaces are updated regularly.
3. Ensure enforcement of bylaws concerning accessible parking spaces throughout the City in cooperation with the appropriate agencies.
4. Work with Master Municipal Construction Documents Association user groups to improve the design standards for sidewalk curb ramps.
5. Continue to provide an adequate level of maintenance and repair of sidewalk curb ramps.
6. Incorporate pedestrian crossings and access upgrades into the Engineering Department's long-range capital plan.
7. Review City bylaws concerning sidewalks, signs, outdoor dining, and snow removal, in consultation with appropriate community groups, for ways to improve the safety and ease of passage along main pedestrian routes throughout the City.