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The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**  
**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT**

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To: Mayor Linda Buchanan and Members of Council

From: Blair Underhill, Planner 2, Transportation Planning

Subject: DRAFT MOBILITY STRATEGY

Date: November 29, 2021 File No: 16-8350-20-0036

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*The following is a suggested recommendation only. Refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

PURSUANT to the report of the Planner 2, Transportation Planning, dated November 29, 2021, entitled “Draft Mobility Strategy”:

THAT staff be directed to use the Draft Mobility Strategy as the basis for community and stakeholder consultation as outlined in this report;

AND THAT staff be directed to consider feedback from Council and the public to refine the Draft Mobility Strategy.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. City of North Vancouver Draft Mobility Strategy (CityDocs [2121246](#))
2. Information Report to Council dated May 13, 2021, Mobility Strategy - Phase 1 Engagement Results (CityDocs [2053724](#))

**SUMMARY**

This report outlines the scope and process that staff are using to deliver the City’s updated Transportation Plan, otherwise known as the Mobility Strategy. This includes refinements of the vision, goals and strategies that were previously brought to Council on March 8, 2021, along with proposed actions that have been developed to achieve the vision and goals. Staff are seeking Council direction to proceed with community and stakeholder feedback. This feedback will focus on ascertaining general levels of support for the draft strategy and how effective the proposed actions may be at enabling more

sustainable travel. Staff will consider feedback prior to developing the final Mobility Strategy for Council consideration in early 2022.

## BACKGROUND

The Mobility Strategy is an update to the City's Transportation Plan, which is indicated as a key priority in Council's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. The Mobility Strategy will direct how the City will plan, invest in, prioritize, operate, and maintain our transportation system for the next decade.

Work on this update was initiated in 2019. In spring 2021, Council received a report and presentation on the Mobility Strategy draft vision and goals, and directed staff to engage the community on this strategic framework. Feedback has been used to refine the vision and goals, and develop the proposed actions within the Draft Mobility Strategy. Staff continue to follow a three-phase approach for delivering the Mobility Strategy.

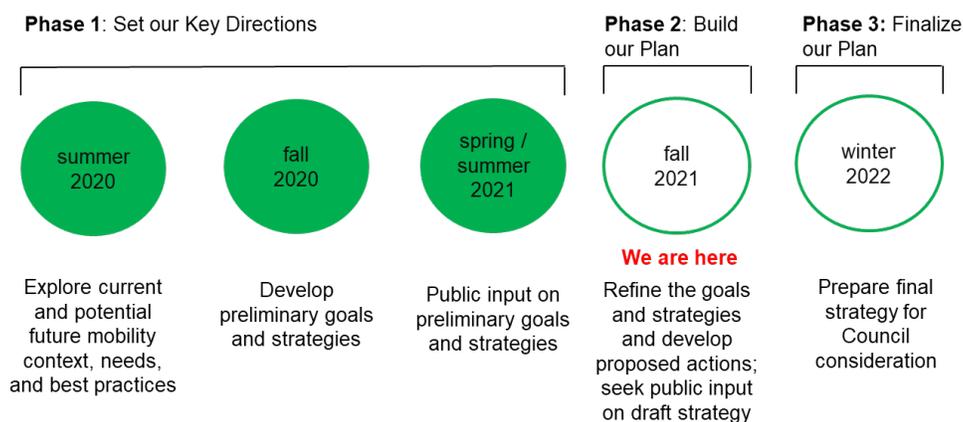


Figure 1: Mobility Strategy Schedule

## DISCUSSION

### What we heard in Phase 1 Engagement

Phase 1 engagement was undertaken through two primary mediums: a Let's Talk online survey, and stakeholder meetings. The engagement period occurred over six weeks, from mid-March to end of April 2021, with a focus to receive feedback on the Mobility Strategy's preliminary goals and strategies. The online survey had over 250 people participate, and more than 2,000 people visiting the engagement site. Staff also met with over 30 stakeholder groups that comprised peer government agencies, City partners, and a range of community associations.

Eighty percent of public respondents felt that the draft vision and goals introduced in the initial framework for this Strategy, reflected what was important to them, and all stakeholder groups that staff met with, saw their own strategic direction being reflected through one or more of the Mobility Strategy goals. The goals and strategies were refined to better align and reflect public and stakeholder feedback. The top values and priorities heard through Phase 1 engagement also provided the basis for developing the

actions that are included within the Draft Mobility Strategy. For a summary of Phase 1 engagement outcomes, see Attachment #2.

## Structure of the Draft Mobility Strategy

The structure of the Mobility Strategy is as follows:

- Vision and goals: These are the desired outcomes of what we want our mobility system to achieve, that reflects our community values and priorities.
- Strategies: These are broad statements outlining what needs to be done to realize our vision and goals. Strategies are intended to achieve multiple goals.
- Actions and sub-actions: These are specific policies, programs, projects, and criteria that we will use to inform planning, design, and investment decisions.
- Performance Indicators: These are directional measures that will allow us to track progress on achieving the vision and goals.

The proposed Mobility Strategy Vision is “**Healthy streets that work for everyone**”. This vision sits atop the strategy framework and paints a picture of a safe, vibrant, low-carbon city that provides plenty of options for people to get around. The vision is supported by goals and strategies, and performance indicators we will use to track progress.

### The Goals

1. Our streets will help our city prosper and be a vibrant place.
2. Our streets will support real and accessible choices for how we move around.
3. Our streets will be safe and comfortable.
4. Our streets will reduce our impact on climate change and the environment.

### The Strategies

1. Make walking and rolling the easiest choice for more of our shorter trips.
2. Make transit the easiest choice for more of our medium and longer distance trips.
3. Make shared and zero-emission vehicles the easiest choice when we need to use a car.
4. Encourage people to make sustainable travel choices.
5. Improve the safety and comfort of vulnerable road users.
6. Rebalance the space along our curbs to meet a wide range of needs.
7. Reclaim more street space for people and nature.
8. Support sustainable mobility through how we grow and develop.
9. Keep urban freight, deliveries, and emergency vehicles moving.
10. Strengthen our connections within the City, and across the North Shore and Metro Vancouver.
11. Optimize our mobility system through proactive management, operation, and access to information.

### Performance indicators

1. A year-over-year decrease in the number of collisions that result in serious injury or death.
2. A year-over-year decrease in the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated by travel.
3. A year-over-year increase in the number of trips made by sustainable modes and a decrease in the number of trips made by vehicles.

### **Approach and summary of Draft Mobility Strategy actions**

The proposed actions were developed through a hybrid approach of considering public and stakeholder feedback from Phase 1 engagement along with best practices that have been tailored to our City's unique context. Many of the actions focus on creating the enabling conditions for people to travel by sustainable modes (walking, rolling, or transit) and reduce the impacts of how people, goods, and services move. Nearly a third of the vehicle trips we take are under 5 km in length, distances that can be travelled by walking or rolling by many people. More trips taken through these modes will create space and improve reliability on our streets for goods movement and for people who need to use a vehicle.

Over 100 sub-actions are included to achieve the Mobility Strategy's vision. Actions are either recommitments from existing City policies, refinements based on existing direction, or are brand new actions that we need to undertake to create healthy streets that work for everyone. A sample of particularly transformative actions are listed under these three categories below, with all actions included in the attached Draft Mobility Strategy.

#### Sample of Recommitted Actions

- Complete and improve the accessibility of our sidewalk network.
- Increase transit priority measures on our Frequent Transit Network.
- Create walkable transit-oriented communities through compact growth and development.
- Continue sustainable travel education and outreach programs.

#### Sample of Refined Actions

- Quickly expand our Mobility Lane Network using low-cost, quick-build measures.
- Expand 30 km/h speed limits to all local streets.
- Review the City's Resident Exempt Parking Program and work with residents to develop a more comprehensive approach to vehicle permitting that meets the needs of street users.
- Increase the number of plazas and parklets on our streets and expand opportunities for the Living Lane initiative.
- Support local businesses and regional goods movement through dedicated pick up and loading zones.

### Sample of New Actions

- Reduce the amount of vehicle parking that developers are required to provide in new buildings, introduce vehicle parking maximums, and complement this with new travel demand management requirements.
- Promote low-emission deliveries through logistics hubs, lockers, and right sizing of vehicles.
- Work with the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, North Shore municipalities, TransLink, and the Province to leverage the recent Burrard Inlet Rapid Transit study findings and prioritize rapid transit investment to the North Shore.
- Introduce street types to provide guidance on which streets are appropriate for certain policies and actions, and to better communicate with the public.
- Support TransLink's efforts on regional travel demand initiatives such as mobility pricing to improve the reliability of our street networks by reducing congestion in a way that is fair and equitable

### **Consultation approach for Phase 2 Engagement**

The purpose of Phase 2 engagement is to seek input on how effective the actions contained within the Draft Mobility Strategy may be at helping people shift their travel behaviour and general levels of support for the full strategy. Stakeholder and public responses will help staff frame and prioritize actions in the final Mobility Strategy to ensure we are maximizing the benefits from this work for our community.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 public health restrictions, staff will primarily rely on online and digital consultation for Phase 2 with potential for limited in-person public engagement dependent public health authority guidance. The 4-week consultation window is tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2022. The following consultation tools will be used:

- A dedicated project website on the City's "Let's Talk" page that contains all project information and resources.
- The Draft Mobility Strategy that includes the entire strategic framework (vision, goals, strategies, actions) and additional relevant information on current conditions and implementation.
- An online questionnaire for collecting input on the preliminary actions.
- Meetings with 30+ stakeholder groups to solicit input and perspectives from our partners, peer agencies, and community groups.
- Pop-up open houses with appropriate COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Engagement will focus on whether the actions within the draft strategy are anticipated to achieve the vision and goals, including questions on whether the actions will:

- Improve access and options for using sustainable modes to travel,
- Improve safe and comfortable conditions,
- Improve our environmental sustainability,

- Improve our City's vibrancy and prosperity.

### **Next Steps**

Should Council endorse the recommendations outlined in this report, staff will work with stakeholders and the public to acquire feedback related to the draft Mobility Strategy. An information report will be submitted to Council at the end of the engagement period that will summarize findings. Staff will consider community feedback to refine the draft Mobility Strategy in advance of submitting a final Mobility Strategy for Council consideration in early 2022.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Approximately \$200,000 has been appropriated from the 2019 and 2020 Project Plans to support development of the Mobility Strategy. Major project components that the budget are being used to fund include: staff time, project consultant support, consultation and communications, and material development. Additional funding will be requested in future Annual Financial Plans to implement the Mobility Strategy once adopted by Council.

### **INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Mobility Strategy will establish new policy direction and supportive actions and strategies that will have cross-organizational implications. The Draft Mobility Strategy has been reviewed by the City's Policy and Projects Team, Leadership Team, North Vancouver City Fire Department, and North Vancouver RCMP.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN, OCP OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Mobility Strategy is intended to support and build upon transportation-related objectives and policies in the City's Official Community Plan (2014). The strategy is also intended to support the vision and all five priorities of Council's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



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Planner 2, Transportation Planning