MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Monday, December 11, 2023
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Zachary Wells
Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Thomas Cameron, Fire Chief
Richard Zerr, Acting Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer/EA
Gurvinder Sodhi, Communications and Network Analyst Advisor

Others in attendance: 2 members of the public and 1 media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the December 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Committee of the Whole – November 14, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held November 14, 2023, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

(b) Committee of the Whole – November 29, 2023

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held November 29, 2023, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) TRUE Consulting

Brandon Demuriak, representative from TRUE Consulting, was in attendance to present to Council the Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP). In the presentation, the following points were discussed:

- ITMP Purpose
    - Review the existing transportation network and its future long-term goals.
    - Create the framework for a balanced mobility network that optimizes both the existing and proposed future transportation infrastructure.
- Project Road Map
    - We are currently in the public engagement phase of the project, as part of the plan finalization steps.
    - Following the conclusion of public engagement, the final plan will be released and sent for Council adoption and implementation.
- Community Context – Demographics
    - 59% of residents are 45 years of age or older.
    - 56.7% of residents have a commute time of less than 15 minutes.
    - 87% of residents commute in a car, truck or van.
    - 9% of residents commute by walking.
- Development Guidelines
    - Current guidelines were created in 1999 to a rural standard with wide roads.
- Road Classification and Public Transit
    - The District has 80km of paved roads, split into two classifications – Collector and Local – in both urban and rural areas.
    - The District is serviced by BC Transit, which provides four stops in the community in connection with Agassiz.
- Many of the high-volume collision intersections exist within downtown Hope, Kawkawa Lake Road, and Old Hope Princeton Way.
- Stakeholder Engagement
    - Initial consultations were split into two groups, General Public and Key Stakeholders, to help identify existing barriers, gaps, and issues within the existing transportation network.
    - Due to low attendance at the in-person open house, an online survey was offered with an interactive map system.
    - Highest priorities heard were traffic safety, access to transit, driving and truck traffic, walking, and cycling.
    - The ideal vision for the transportation network was noted as more and

improved sidewalks, better access to transit and more transit routes, and safer active transportation corridors and infrastructure between downtown Hope and outlying neighborhoods.

- Defining Goals and Vision
    - The ITMP's goals have been developed to be long-range and integrated with the overall goals of the District of Hope and the larger region.
    - The goals and objectives were developed based on existing plans, policies and guiding documentation, along with feedback from City Staff, Council, key stakeholders and the general public.
- ITMP Objectives
    - Improved Travel Affordability
    - Improved Accessibility/Equity
    - Improved Safety for Users
    - Improved Health and Sustainability for the Environment and Users
    - Enhanced Travel Choices and Diversity
    - Enhanced Community Connectivity
    - Embrace Changing Technologies
    - Develop Key Network Priorities for Investment
- Forecast and Trends
    - Climate Change
    - Infrastructure Deficit
    - Emerging Technologies
    - Aging Population
    - Shifting Economy
    - Regional Mobility Hub
- Mobility Targets
    - Increase the proportion of trips made by sustainable transportation by 50% by 2040.
    - Provide a fully connected community through a sustainable transportation network of walkable and bikeable infrastructure by 2040.
- Network Analysis and Modelling
    - Currently, Old Hope Princeton Way and Water Avenue see the most traffic.
    - 5 and 15 years from now, traffic will increase in a spotty manner with no particular junctions that will be overwhelmed.
- Rural vs. Urban Context Review – Criteria
    - Safety Considerations
    - Environmental Impact/Drainage Conditions
    - Existing Conditions/Cost Effectiveness

  - Maintenance and Renewal
  - Preservation of Rural Character

- Pedestrian Network
  - Pedestrian infrastructure has been constructed primarily within the downtown core.
  - Walkability is available in the downtown core, but barriers are faced when travelling outside of that area.
  - Lack of connectivity is found throughout the community, with spot gaps existing in key areas.
  - Lack of crossing control at key intersections and road crossings.

- Cycling Network
  - A signed cycling route throughout the downtown area exists, established to provide users with a route around the community.
  - The community does not contain dedicated cycling facilities, aside from small sections of infrastructure.
  - Inadequate cycling facilities do not meet the needs of all ages and abilities.
  - Lack of connectivity between different areas of the community.
  - No delineation or guidance for cyclists at intersections and road crossings.

- Trails/Pathways Network
  - The trail network is sporadic and intertwined through all parts of the community.
  - Trail networks run through private land in areas of trespass.
  - Lack of connections from trailheads to existing urban active transportation facilities.
  - Lack of integration with regional/provincial sustainable transportation networks.

- Second Public Consultation – 80 responses
  - Majority of residents find it important to invest in the transportation network, with community connectivity as a focal point.
  - Most residents travel in and around town for shopping, utilizing vehicles.
  - Most residents agree that the proportion of trips made by sustainable transportation should increase by 50% by 2040.
  - Most residents agree that a fully connected community should be provided through a sustainable network of walkable and bikeable infrastructure by 2040.

- Next Steps and Schedule
  - Completion of Modeling Analysis – December 2023
  - Recommended Actions – December 2023
  - Implementation Plan and Cost Estimates – January 2024

- Draft Report for Council Review – January 2024
- Final Report for Council Adoption – February 2024

Council inquired as to whether the final report, once adopted, will provide shelf-ready programs that the District can implement and use to seek opportunities for grant funding. Mr. Demuriak confirmed that the ITMP will provide policy recommendations and a framework for the community to follow, as well as cost estimates that the District can utilize when looking for funding opportunities. The CAO inquired as to whether the accident statistics from ICBC include the nature of the accidents. Mr. Demuriak advised that he cannot speak to the specifics but will be able to compile that information for later review as they now have an Information Sharing Agreement with ICBC.

5. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

6. CLOSE

Moved / Seconded

THAT the December 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourn at 7:02 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 11, 2023 in Council Chambers of the District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services