

Background

On May 25, 2017 a report titled “Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan – Better Routes. Better Schedules. Better Service” was presented to Council. The report outlined the work plan of the Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan service review, including anticipated engagement dates and key deliverable milestones, with an anticipated end date of March 31, 2018.

The review which is being led by Transit Consulting Network (TCN) is one of sixteen (16) projects approved under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF). In response to the tight deadlines and volume of projects undertaken by municipalities Province wide, Infrastructure Canada (INFC) has increased the amount of federal funding that can be claimed beyond March 31, 2018 from 25% to 40% of gross project costs. The completion date for projects receiving approval of the extension is March 31, 2019.

Greater Sudbury Transit has requested an extension for this PTIF project, to provide flexibility in the work plan to complete the study thoroughly without pressures of meeting a tight deadline. Furthermore, some of the infrastructure improvements are contingent on some aspects of the proposed new route structure, and therefore cannot be implemented until Council has received and approved the final report.

This report presents information regarding the current status of the Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan work plan, including a full review of the engagement process undertaken in Phase I.

Project Phase Update

Phase I: Critical Evaluation of Existing Transit Issues and Opportunities – Complete

The focus of the engagement phase was on hearing from the perspective of Transit Customers, Non-Transit Customers and Community Stakeholders on “what's working and what's not”. From the engagement process, key conclusions with issues and opportunities have been identified. Data has also been reviewed by the project team to support what was brought forward as priorities through the public engagement process and has been used to substantiate key findings and recommendations.

- **Engagement Timelines:** June 18-July 9, 2017.
- **Key Deliverable:** TCN has provided a technical memorandum providing an in depth review of the public engagement process and community priority results (Appendix A – Greater Sudbury Phase I Engagement Update).

Phase II: Creation of Draft Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan Report

Building on the information collected in Phase I, Phase II of the Greater Transit Action Plan involves the development of preliminary recommendations for the Greater Sudbury Transit System. The Draft Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan Report will present recommendations on a new route network, revised service levels, policies, and supporting measures that could be used to further improve Greater Sudbury Transit over the short, medium and long term. Presentations on the draft recommendations will be made to the Technical Working Committee, Advisory Panels and Greater Sudbury Transit Stakeholders, where feedback from these settings will be incorporated in the Draft Greater Sudbury Transit Action Report.

- **Anticipated Engagement Timelines:** Presentations November-December 2017.
- **Key Deliverable:** End of January 2018, Draft Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan presented to Council as an update.

Phase III: Collaboratively Refine Draft Recommendations and Finalize Report

Phase III presents the information collected and resulting preliminary recommendations back to the public to enable the community to help refine and prioritize proposals. Engagement with the public will consist of a series of Open Houses and an Online Survey. The Final Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan will be presented to Council based on the public's feedback.

- **Anticipated Engagement Timelines:** Survey will be made available to the public for a month long period, along with a series of Open Houses to be held mid-February 2018.
- **Key Deliverable:** Beginning of April 2018, Final Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan will be presented to Council for approval.

Infrastructure Improvements

TCN and members of the Greater Sudbury Transit Team identified early on in the project preliminary key infrastructure needs required to improve Greater Sudbury Transit services. The recommendations have been examined, and prioritized based on public feedback and available funds included in the approved 2017 Capital Budget (<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=976&itemid=11960&lang=en>). Greater Sudbury Transit will proceed with the following improvements:

- Bike racks on buses
- Wayfinding improvements based on new network design
- Bus stop and shelter infrastructure improvements

To note, contactless/Smart Card technology advantages will be discussed in the Interim Greater Sudbury Transit Plan report, and have been identified as being a priority to increasing ridership and customer experience. The initiative however cannot be undertaken under the existing funding of this project.

Next Steps

Greater Sudbury Transit will continue to work with Transit Consulting Network to reach all milestones identified in the work plan. Draft action plan to Council – January, Final action plan to Council in April 2018.

References

Council Meeting May 25, 2017; “Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan – Better Routes. Better Schedules. Better Service”.

(<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1129&itemid=13378&lang=en>)