

Transportation

Transportation policies should provide a range of safe, convenient, affordable and accessible transportation options at the local level.

Transportation plans need to be developed with local input and be relevant to the unique needs of the region and people.



For communities to be livable, local governments need to commit to building transportation systems that are sustainable, accessible, and affordable. BC municipal governments share in the responsibility of providing elements of transportation systems with BC Transit, a provincial crown agency (excluding Metro Vancouver). With rising gas prices, climate change, and the possibility of energy scarcity, now more than ever, municipal governments need to choose to invest time and resources, and conduct citizen engagement, to create transit plans that are comprehensive, sustainable, and tailored to local needs.

Municipal governments are responsible for setting local transit objectives and approving transportation plans. They are also responsible for roads, traffic by-laws, and land-use development. Local governments have the opportunity and ability to increase sustainability in their community by going beyond building roads and public transit, by also leading in the

development of bike paths, walking paths, public education on alternative transportation, support car-sharing operatives and use creative planning

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to build walkable communities.

Another important aspect of creating a sustainable transportation system is consulting the public and involving them in the planning. In order for a system to be useable and inclusive of all people in a community, a variety of perspectives need to be brought around the planning table. Transportation needs can range widely from region to region; from dense urban

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cores and town centres, to low-density, suburban residential neighbourhoods, to sparsely populated agricultural and rural areas. The differences in neighbourhoods within a single community can sometimes be large enough to warrant very different design and application of transit options.

A community that has transportation options, that are safe, well maintained, and affordable, adds to the overall quality of life for residents. Municipal governments have a role to play in creating healthy, livable communities. Municipal governments can choose to be leaders in comprehensive sustainable transportation plans and prepare their communities for the future where dependency on cars is reduced. Residents can choose to elect representatives that are interested and passionate about creating transportation, and communities that work. ■

How would you increase the transportation options in reflect your residents' needs?

What are important elements to a safe walkable community?

How would you encourage residents and businesses to bike to work?

For More Information:

Victoria Transport Policy Institute
www.vtpi.org
SmartGrowth BC
<http://smartgrowth.bc.ca>

Better Environmentally Sound
Transportation
<http://www.best.bc.ca>
Built Environment and Active
Transportation
www.bcrpa.bc.ca<http://www.best.bc.ca>

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