

Memo



Date: October 8, 2010
File: 1405-06
To: City Manager
From: Ron Westlake, Director, Regional Services
Subject: Status of Rutland Centre Initiatives

Recommendation:

THAT Council directs staff to defer the design and construction of the Shepherd Road Extension pending confirmation of the location of a proposed Transit Centre consistent with Phase 3 of the Rapid Bus Implementation strategy.

Purpose: To inform the community and stakeholders of a change in plans for implementing the proposed Shepherd Rd extension and Rutland transit exchange which will now occur beyond 2011.

Background:

The OCP has recognized the **Rutland Town Centre** as one of the four major urban centres of the City since 1996. The Town Centre has served the community for many years as a commercial centre and in the future is planned as a mixed-use area incorporating higher density residential development. In consultation with community stakeholders, the City has been planning enhancements to the Rutland Urban Centre for many years, which will serve to guide public and private investments to help this area achieve its true potential in the City's strategic growth plans.

This report provides City Council with a status report with regard to two ongoing and related planning initiatives for this urban centre; the planning of a major transit facility as well as urban design planning for the revitalization and redevelopment of the urban centre.

Transit Centre

The Rutland area has been a key user of the City's public transit system since the **Kelowna Regional Transit** service began. The Rutland urban centre is currently serviced by five different bus routes. In 1998, BC Transit recognized it as a hub in a proposed Town Centre express service and since that time a number of different options for developing a transit exchange have been assessed.

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The City was preparing to implement the proposed **Shepherd Rd. Extension and Transit Centre** in 2011. A grant of \$1.4 million of federal funding was secured for the development of this centre with a deadline of 2013 for completion of the project. A commitment was made to the Uptown Rutland Business Association and the adjoining community that this facility would be built in 2011.

Rutland Centre Urban Design

A City sponsored charrette was held at the Rutland Centennial Hall on June 23 and 24, 2010. Community stakeholders including representatives of the Rutland Residents Association, the Centennial Park Society, and the Uptown Rutland Business Association worked with urban design consultants to shape a vision for the commercial core of the Town Centre. Community stakeholders agreed that a new transit exchange is a key component of this vision and must be carefully located and designed to create a safe and welcoming pedestrian environment which will support future development within Uptown Rutland. In the ensuing group discussions, alternate locations for the transit centre within the Town Centre were suggested and evaluated, including sites on Highway 33 and Rutland Road, Roxby Road and Shepherd Road, adjacent to the City-owned Roxby Parking lot. At the conclusion of the charrette, there was general consensus that the Roxby Road and Shepherd Road alternatives had merit and should be explored further.

The charrette was the first phase of a process to formulate a strategy to revitalize the Rutland Town Centre. The next stage will be to draft an implementation strategy. It is expected that this phase will identify the appropriate policies, programs, and specific initiatives, with associated timelines, that can be utilized to realize the Town Centre's potential, as identified in the *Uptown Rutland Market Assessment (2009)* and reinforced through the charrette results to date. Consultants with the required expertise will be retained to carry out this work and there will be further consultation with community stakeholders.

It is anticipated that the second phase of the revitalization strategy will provide a level of design detail to ensure successful integration of the transit centre into the overall urban design concept and to otherwise capitalize on the multiple economic and social benefits associated with provision of a transit facility within the Town Centre.

Funding for the second phase of the urban design is in place. However, staff is awaiting confirmation on the transit centre location before proceeding. It is expected that the transit centre location will be determined through a joint planning initiative between BC Transit and the City but the timelines are unknown.

Recent Developments

City Council, staff, and Uptown Rutland recently learned that BC Transit had included \$3.7 million for a new major transit centre in a multi-government funding initiative which requires the City to contribute an additional \$800,000 for land and \$1.2 million overall for a proposed Rutland Town Centre transit centre. BC Transit has not however undertaken conceptual planning for this facility and has advised that the location for the Transit Centre implementation will be subject to further review, in consultation with key stakeholders. This review will consider the community input that was received at the 2010 June design charrette.

Following a formal announcement of federal and provincial funding, BC Transit officials made a presentation to Council on September 13th that outlined a multi-government funding plan for Phases 2 & 3 of the Rapid Bus project.

City staff is currently working with the other agencies to draft the Memorandum of Understanding that outlines roles and responsibilities for the delivery of different transit infrastructure projects

within the region. It is anticipated that this MOU will establish the approach to selection and implementing the road and transit infrastructure in the Rutland Centre.

Summary/key points:

1. As a result of recent transit planning direction and funding from BC Transit, the City has agreed to a new planning process to identify a future Transit Centre within the Rutland Centre.
2. The Shepherd Rd extension (Dougall Rd to Asher Rd) and the Transit Centre originally proposed for implementation in the spring of 2011 will be delayed pending the outcome of the planning process.
3. Funding of \$2.3 million beyond the previously approved \$1.4 million capital for this project has been identified in the Rapid Bus Project for a total of \$3.7 million for the Rutland Transit Centre. The additional funding is a combination of provincial and City funding.
4. The 2010 Rutland Centre Urban Design charrette results will inform the planning for the Rutland Transit Centre.
5. The completion of the Rutland Centre Urban Design and implementation strategy will also be delayed pending the determination of the site for the Transit Centre.

Internal Circulation:

R. Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning
C. Stephens, Director, Community and Media Relations

Considerations not applicable to this report:

External Agency/Public Comments
Financial/Budgetary Considerations
Community & Media Relations Comments
Legal/Statutory Authority
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
Existing Policy
Personnel Implications
Alternate Recommendation

Submitted by:



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Approved for inclusion:



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cc: R. Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning
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