

Memo



Date: April 12, 2011
File: 1405-06
To: City Manager
From: Director, Regional Services
Subject: Rutland Centre Transit Investments

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Director, Regional Services dated April 12, 2011, with respect to Rutland Centre Transit Investments.

THAT Council supports the following transit capital investments in the Rutland Centre as per the report from the Director, Regional Services dated April 12, 2011:

- a) Three proposed transit pull-outs west of Dougall Road, along Highway 33;
- b) The extension of Shepherd Road between Dougall Road and Asher Road;
- c) Streetscaping along the west side of Dougall Road between Hwy 33 and Froelich Road;
- d) Streetscaping along the above noted section of Shepherd Road (north and south sides of the street) and along the north side of the existing section of Shepherd Road between Asher Road and Roxby Road; &
- e) Temporary bus stop improvements (large transit shelters, new pedestrian benches, waste receptacles) on Highway 33 east of Dougall Road and on Rutland Road.

Purpose: To inform Council and the community on plans to implement transit investments that benefit both public transit and the Rutland Town Centre revitalization.

Background:

The City has been planning for many years, land use and transportation changes to support the strategic redevelopment and growth of the Rutland Urban Centre. Rutland is one of the largest communities within Kelowna and its urban centre provides local commercial and institutional services. The development of mixed-use and higher density land uses will enhance the important role of this urban centre as the City grows while also reducing future travel demands.

Proposed transit and 'pedestrian-ization' improvements within this urban centre will enhance access to existing services of the centre and could be a catalyst to supporting important redevelopment in the future.

Significant community consultations have taken place from the late 1990s until 2010 relative to public investments in the Rutland Urban Centre. These consultations, undertaken jointly with provincial agencies, have led to the current plan for improvements. This plan forms part of the

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early implementation of the Rapid Bus project announced in September, 2010. A summary chronology of the background of this initiative is attached to this report.

City staff worked with BC Transit reps to develop this transit investment plan. The proposed Shepherd Road extension and transit centre will provide significant immediate and long term benefits to the community. This includes providing improved street connectivity for all travel modes within Uptown Rutland and leveraging funding for streetscape and 'pedestrian-ization' improvements that will revitalize the core of Uptown Rutland. The plan also enables the integration of new on-street transit stops within the centre of the commercial core, thus creating a safe and welcoming environment for transit patrons and a focal point for new transit oriented developments.

As per the recommendation above, the proposed transit investments will include:

- Three new bus pull-outs on Highway 33 at Dougall Road and Hollywood Rd.
- The extension of Shepherd Road between Dougall Road and Asher Road;
- Construction of new sidewalks and streetscaping treatments (i.e., landscaping, new lighting, waste receptacles) on the west side of Dougall Road, between Hwy 33 and Froelich Road.
- Streetscaping on the north and south sides along the above noted section of Shepherd Road and along the north side of the existing section of Shepherd Road between Asher Road and Roxby Road.
- Temporary bus stop improvements (large transit shelters, new pedestrian benches, waste receptacles) on Highway 33 east of Dougall Road and on Rutland Road.

We have reached agreement with the key stakeholder groups for the above noted improvements and reached agreement with the Rutland Centennial Parks Society for a process that could achieve a future extension of Shepherd Rd from Roxby Road to Rutland Road.

The City will oversee the implementation of the Shepherd Road extension. Preliminary design is expected to be completed during 2011 with construction to follow in 2012.

BC Transit will oversee the improvements along Hwy 33.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The City has \$1.4M of approved Gas Tax funding that was allocated to a proposed transit exchange along Shepherd Rd. The deadline for using these funds is September, 2013.

As part of the new funding announcement in early September, 2010, \$2.3M of additional funding was announced. This is comprised of \$1.1M of provincial funding and \$1.2M of City funding.

Community & Media Relations Comments:

Staff reported to City Council at their regular meeting on October 18, 2010 advising that the public investments in transit improvements would not occur until after 2011.

Since the above announcement, the Uptown Rutland Business Association has been anxious to see a resolution to the transit investment plan. This report provides the community with information on the transit investment plan. City staff plan to re-engage the community to consult on future planning work later this year.

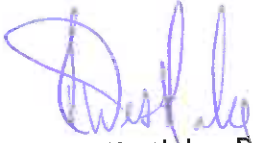
Internal Circulation

General Manager, Community Sustainability
Director, Community & Media Relations
Director, Infrastructure Planning
Urban Design Planner

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
Existing Policy
Personnel Implications
External Agency/Public Comments
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



R. Westlake, Director, Regional Services

Approved for inclusion:

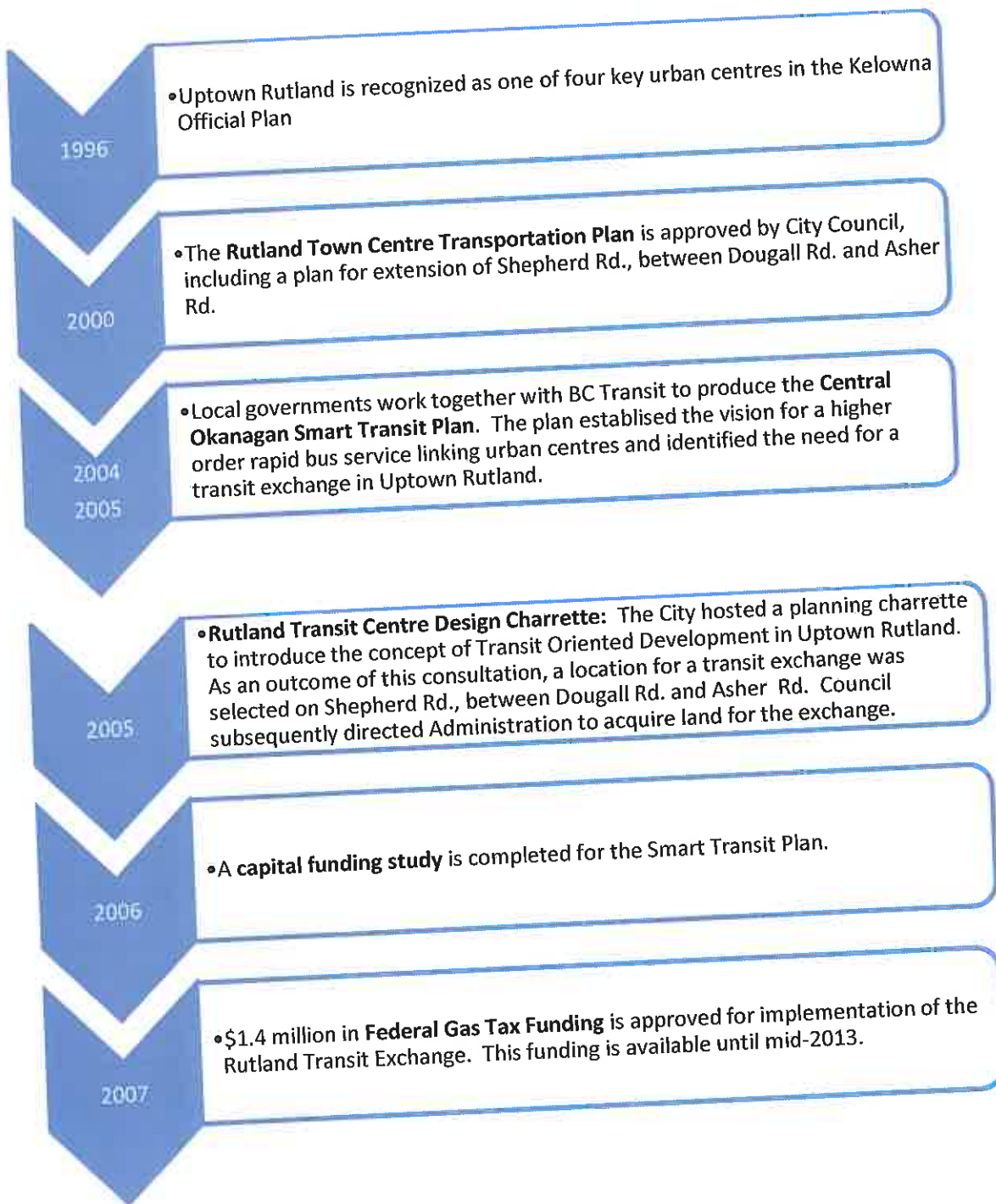


J. Paterson, General Manager, Community Sustainability

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Rutland Transit Centre Planning Chronology

cc: General Manager, Community Sustainability
Director, Community & Media Relations
Director, Infrastructure Planning

Appendix 1 – Rutland Centre Transit Planning Chronology



2009

• **Streetscape Planning:** The City completed the conceptual design of streetscaping improvements in Uptown Rutland, including the Rutland Transit Exchange.

2009

• **Market Assessment:** A market assessment undertaken in partnership with URBA confirms that improvements such as the Shepherd Road transit exchange, streetscaping and open space improvements will help to revitalize the inner core of Uptown Rutland. The report also endorsed the extension of Shepherd Rd. from Dougall Rd. to Rutland Rd.

2010

• **Urban Design Charrette:** In 2010 June, the City hosted an urban design charrette to develop an action plan to stimulate the revitalization of Uptown Rutland. Support is expressed for integration of the transit exchange within the streetscape of the inner core area and the concept of extending Shepherd Rd. from Dougall Rd. to Rutland Rd.

2010

• In 2010 September, the Provincial and Federal Government along with the City announced \$3.7 million in funding for a new Rutland Transit Exchange as part of a commitment to complete the regional rapidbus project. This announcement included the \$1.4 million in Federal Gas Tax funding announced in 2007.