

Strategic Planning Working Group Meeting Notes

Oct. 27th, 2021

Virtual WebEx Meeting

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Those in attendance: Mark McNeil, Tom Manzuk, Paula Kilburn, James Kemp, Elizabeth Jayne Cardno

Also in attendance: Taline Morris

Those absent: Patty Cameron, Aznive Mallett

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda: Agenda was approved
3. Dillon Report Discussion: We discussed the upcoming AAFC presentation from HSR based on the Dillon Report recommendations and how we want to proceed. We have decided on a multi-pronged approach so we can be prepared not matter how HSR decides to proceed. We understand that at least a partial integration of conventional transit and paratransit services is inevitable, but we must counsel patience and a slow multi-year rollout as we try and make the conventional as accessible as possible. The conventional service is not prepared for the increased numbers and workload and we must make that clear. We must also be prepared for HSR to agree to reassess, but decide they aren't ready to downshift clients. We would like HSR to start counting how many pass-bys occur daily, how many

scooters, power chairs, walkers, white canes board etc.... In order to get a clearer picture of how many people with disabilities use conventional transit. We need to point out the difficulty in some of the proposals in the report, for example: Integrated trips; while it looks like it would be successful on paper, there are too many variables for it to be a valid option. DARTS cannot guarantee that they will be on time, and HSR cannot guarantee that there will be an available space for them, just to name two issues. Another unknown variable is Taxi Scrips and how they will address grandfathered clients.

4. On-Street Patio Program: We discussed whether this working group should oversee this project or if we should just leave it in BEWG only. We decided that it is fine where it is for the moment and doesn't require oversight.
5. Advisory Committee Collaboration: We had a brief discussion on what Committees were interested and what they were interested in. Housing and Homelessness would like to speak with the Chair of HWG at a full HHAC meeting in the New Year to discuss combining forces and what that may look like. James will prepare a delegation motion for next ACPD. Senior Advisory Committee would like to discuss cooperating over transportation issues and would also like to talk about databasing. LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee would like to discuss databasing. James will try and set up a meeting with the three groups in the future.
6. Ride Share/Taxi Incentive Program: James has had a motion for this on his OBL for a little while but is still waiting to have a conversation with Taxi management with regards to how many accessible taxis are in operation per day. By-

Law/Licensing will only tell us that there are 43 accessible taxi licenses. We discussed the ride share programs being required to pay a fairer share or they will have to invest in accessible transport.

7. CityLab/Community Engagement Database Project: We discussed the future of this project and have decided that the initial purpose, a fully accessible and searchable database, has been coopted into more of a research project. We have decided to separate the database issue from this project and will take another approach. This project will now be referred to as the CityLab/Community Engagement research project. We are hoping to have a proposal before us in the next month or so.

8. Other Business: During our transit discussion, Elizabeth brought up the issue of integrated transit stops, for example, ensuring LRT/Express stops have space for DARTS or Taxi pick up/drop off, bike racks, accessible seating, soon to be E-Scooter stations etc... Tom made a suggestion of installing emergency charging stations for power scooters and power chairs on bus shelters.

9. Adjournment