



City of Maple Ridge  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
**AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING**  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 4:00 pm  
Held via Zoom Teleconference

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**Meeting Access Information**

To practice social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic we will be holding the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) special meeting via teleconference. All participants including members of the public are asked to join the meeting from home using the access information provided:

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://mapleridge-ca.zoom.us/j/95877839220?pwd=SW1pVzRmem5MWG1jTmPdWFmROJ2UT09>

Or call in using your phone:

Dial +17789072071

Meeting ID: 958 7783 9220

Passcode: 033385

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**
  2. **QUESTION PERIOD**
  3. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
    - 3.1. Active Transportation for Schools Task Force Report
  4. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting: April 28, 2021**

**Agenda Items Submission Deadline: April 12, 2021**

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Question Period provides the public with the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on subjects that are of concern to them. Each person will be given 2 minutes to speak. Up to ten minutes in total is allotted for Question Period.

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# **The Active Transportation for Schools Task Force Report to the City of Maple Ridge Transportation Advisory Committee**

## **Executive Summary:**

The Active Transportation for Schools Task Force (TF) was established March 25th, 2020. The overall goal of the TF was to explore if and how the City of Maple Ridge Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) could promote and support Active School Travel/School Travel Planning (AST/STP) for students attending Maple Ridge (MR) schools.

Unfortunately, due to the onset of COVID , the TF members felt unable to commence engagement with the school district or District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) until September 2020. Instead, the TF members used the first few months to study and familiarize themselves with the research and tools available for AST/STP. Links to some of these resources are attached in **Schedule A**.

The TF engaged with the school district and the DPAC in September 2020. Unfortunately, the school district, due to the overwhelming consumption of time dealing with COVID, declined involvement with the TF. The DPAC was able to engage however, and conversations with the school district informed us that the DPAC policies and procedures, including who they engage with, is their autonomous decision.

The TF was asked to give a presentation at the DPAC meeting in Nov/2020. Amongst those attending were Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) representatives and the school district superintendent.

Since the presentation, the TF has been contacted by several PACs and have ongoing involvement with the DPAC. Accomplishments and strategies include:

- presentations given to 2 schools to discuss AST/STP and converse about their interest and challenges they have at their schools,
- one school creating an AST subcommittee within their PAC, which has started to identify the challenges preventing AST- the TF was invited and attended an AST meeting at this school,
- DPAC has informed the TF that they have received feedback from PACs that there is a lot of interest in AST/STP,
- working with DPAC to decide how best to gather data from PACs to measure the interest of parents. A decision has been made to send out a letter survey to PACs.

A detailed timeline of the TF work during their term is attached as **Schedule B**.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, the TF has been unable to complete their mandate by the end of the timeline, Dec 31/2020. This timeline was created to coincide with the end of the term appointment on the TAC. Now that this term has been extended for 1 year, the members of the TF want to continue the work started by the above TF.

## **Recommendation:**

We recommend that the original TF be concluded as, due to COVID, engagement with the school district and staff will not be probable in the foreseeable future.

Further recommendation is that a new TF commence. This TF will engage with the DPAC, with MR PACs and with private schools in MR. The new timeline will be March 24th-Sept 30/2021.

See **Schedule C** for the new TF proposal.

**Attachments:**

**Schedule A** - Links to some of the resources available and used during the work of the Active Transportation for Schools TF.

**Schedule B** - Detailed timeline of the Active Transportation for Schools TF work.

**Schedule C** - New TF proposal

## **Schedule A - Links to some of the resources available and used during the work of the Active Transportation for Schools Task Force.**

- The Canadian STP Toolkit: copies of both the Regional Stakeholders and the Facilitators Guide can be downloaded as well a general info on Active School Transport.

**<https://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/school-travel-planning/school-travel-planning-toolkit/>**

- TransLink: general info including TravelSmart for Schools

**<https://www.translink.ca/rider-guide/travelsmart>**

- HUB Vancouver: educational resources for safe cycling for kids and families

**<https://bikehub.ca/bike-education>**

- CRD: Ready, Step, Roll Active Transport to School Program; access to examples of programs in 46 schools across 11 municipalities

**<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-transportation/active-school-travel-planning>**

- Move Commute Connect-B.C's Active Transportation Strategy

**[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/funding-engagement-permits/grants-funding/cycling-infrastructure-funding/activetransportationstrategy\\_report\\_web.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/funding-engagement-permits/grants-funding/cycling-infrastructure-funding/activetransportationstrategy_report_web.pdf)**

- City of Maple Ridge: Safer School Travel Program

**<https://mapleridge.ca/234/Safer-School-Travel>**

- Active School Travel Pilot Program-partnership between BC Ministry of Education and BC Healthy Communities

**<http://bchealthycommunities.ca/active-school-travel/>**

- Move Commute Connect-BC's Active Transportation Report Card

**[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/environment/active-transportation/active\\_transportation\\_report\\_card.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/environment/active-transportation/active_transportation_report_card.pdf)**

## **Schedule B - Detailed timeline of the Active Transportation for Schools TF work.**

- March 2020-August 2020: We focused on researching and familiarizing ourselves with the various toolkits, resources and programs that are in practice in other areas. We, respectfully did not initiate contact with the Superintendent or DPAC at this time, as we felt all efforts at the schools would be focused on COVID.
- Sept 2020: We sent a letter to the Superintendent, Sylvia Russel, requesting a virtual meeting with her. We also sent a letter to the DPAC asking if they would be interested in meeting with us. Each party mentioned, was aware that we were in touch with the other.
- Oct 2020: We were contacted by DPAC and had several conversations. They requested we give a presentation at their Nov/2020 meeting.
- Nov 2020: The task force gave a presentation at a DPAC monthly meeting, outlining the TAC and the proposal of the task force, as well as information and resources available to PACs about AST/STP. Ms Russell attended this meeting.
- Dec 2020: We received an email from Ms Russell saying she appreciated the presentation and that she thought school staff would be interested in this once COVID had passed. She also acknowledged that she thought PACs would be interested. She requested that we speak with the chair of the school board, Korleen Carreras.
- Dec 2020-we were contacted by Ms Carreras and there was a conversation about our proposal. We were informed that:
  - the school staff and administrators were completely focused on COVID and that the school district had no capacity to take on anything else at this time.
  - the school district would not normally engage with a task force, but perhaps if a committee was in place, there might be an opportunity for a board member to be involved.

We advised Ms Carreras, that the DPAC and PACs were interested in our proposal, and we asked her if there was any reason we could not continue to work with them. She advised us that PACs are autonomous and make their own decisions about who they want to work with.

Dec 2020-March 2021: We were contacted by several PACs and have ongoing involvement with the DPAC. Accomplishments and strategies include:

- presentations given to 2 schools to discuss AST/STP and converse about their interest and challenges they have at their schools
- one school has created an AST subcommittee within their PAC and have started to identify the challenges preventing AST-we were invited and attended an AST meeting at this school
- DPAC has informed us that they have received feedback from PACs that there is a lot of interest in AST/STP
- working with DPAC to decide how best to gather data from PACs to measure the interest of parents. A decision has been made to send out a letter survey to PACs.

## **Schedule C - Proposal for New Task Force**

### **Active School Travel/School Travel Planning Task Force Proposal**

The Active School Travel/School Travel Planning (AST/STP) Task Force (TF), will explore the opportunity for the TAC to promote active travel of children to schools in Maple Ridge (MR).

There are many benefits for society when people participate in active transportation. Some of these include improved air quality, community engagement, safety and health.

Research shows that children who are active are generally healthier. One way to accomplish the goal of having more active children, is to have children actively transporting themselves to and from school. Specifically for children, active transportation promotes good cardio and bone development, increased alertness and attention, better sleep, and less anxiety and depression which all leads to improved school performance. Children also experience a greater opportunity to foster friendships and a better understanding of their local area, which in turn, gives them an increased sense of belonging. Over the long term, reduced vehicle emissions and improved air quality will result in a lower risk of lung and cardiovascular disease.

Active transportation is a lifestyle choice. When children are exposed to and encouraged to actively transport themselves at an early age, they can have great influence on how future generations, as well as their own parents and friends, choose to move about the community.

The Maple Ridge Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference states the TAC will:

- support the promotion of public education and awareness on the benefits, necessities, and safety aspects of transportation facilities,
- advise on matters related to active transportation as it relates to: active workplace travel, active commuting, active recreation and active destination-oriented trips,
- support the promotion of improved pedestrian and multi-modal path networks for all ages and ranges of mobility through their daily activities and within the community and with connectivity to neighbouring communities,
- encourage regulations and policy changes that support and strengthen multi-modal active transportation and transit,
- review and make recommendations to Council with regards to transportation initiatives proposed by other levels of government and/or agencies.

The TF will explore, in partnership with DPAC/PACs and private schools, if there is a role for the MR TAC to play in facilitating children actively transporting themselves to school.

#### **Parameters:**

There will need to be a minimum of 3 people from the current TAC, on the TF, in order to initiate this project.

The TF will:

1. study and discuss existing toolkits and programs, which are available to facilitate active transportation and school trip planning,
2. engage with MR DPAC/PACs and MR private school administrators, to share AST/STP information, toolkits and resources at their request,
3. gather information from interested MR schools, to assess the interest in promoting AST/STP at their school, what their experiences have been in this area, and what they would find supportive to accomplish this.

**Outcomes:**

The task force will create a report complete with recommendations for presentation to the TAC. A discussion will follow, to decide whether recommendations, based on the task force findings, can be supported by the TAC.

**Timeline:**

March 25, 2021-Sept 30, 2021

**Funding:**

There is no anticipation of funding required for the set up of the task force at this time.

**Members:**

The task force will be made up of members from the TAC, however, the task force reserves the right to invite resource people to meetings to confer/advise on various topics related to the project.