

NO:

COUNCIL DATE:

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **March 27, 2019**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **8740-40**

SUBJECT: **Surrey–Langley SkyTrain Project Update**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Surrey–Langley SkyTrain (“SLS”) project, TransLink’s Work Plan and the upcoming public engagement.

BACKGROUND

At its inaugural meeting on November 5, 2018, City Council passed a motion to:

- *Direct staff stop all work on the SNG-LRT project and immediately start working with TransLink on a SkyTrain extension from the existing King George SkyTrain Station to Langley City;*
- *Request the Mayors’ Council and the TransLink Board to cancel the SNG-LRT Project and immediately initiate a new SkyTrain Extension Project along Fraser Highway by changing the technology originally proposed in the Phase Two Investment Plan to SkyTrain, and re-allocating all available funds in the Phase Two Plan dedicated for rapid transit in Surrey and Langley to start the SkyTrain extension towards Langley as soon as possible; and*
- *Request the Mayors’ Council to seek the required funding for the Phase Three Plan of the 10-Year Vision as soon as possible, to complete all 27 km of rapid transit in Surrey and Langley.*

Following the City’s inaugural meeting, the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation (the “Mayors’ Council”) endorsed TransLink’s decision to suspend the Surrey-Newton-Guildford (“SNG”) LRT Project and agreed to carry forward the region’s 10-Year Vision as the basis for 27 km of rapid transit planning South of the Fraser. The 10-Year Vision included the \$1.6 billion of approved funding currently allocated (Phase Two Investment Plan) and the financial framework for the remaining unsecured \$1.9 billion (in the Phase Three Plan), for a combined total of \$3.5 billion funding envelope committed to 27 km of rapid transit South of the Fraser.

The Mayors' Council passed the following motion at their December 13, 2018 meeting:

Subject to the City of Surrey's specific agreement to pay compensation, no later than upon signing the MOU, all work plan costs unnecessarily expended to date, that endorsed TransLink's work plan to:

- 1. Proceed immediately with planning and project development work for SkyTrain on Fraser Highway; and*
- 2. Concurrently, initiate a planning process to refresh the South of the Fraser rapid transit strategy, consistent with the 10-Year Vision of building 27 km of rapid transit on the three corridors (104 Avenue, King George Boulevard and Fraser Highway).*

DISCUSSION

In December 2018, TransLink developed work plans and secured approval from the Mayors' Council for the SLS project and the South of the Fraser Rapid Transit Strategy ("SoFRT") refresh. The work plans were developed on guiding principles, including working quickly with concurrent work streams in recognition of the costs of delays, while setting realistic time requirements and completing a technical and engagement process to ensure an effective and deliverable project, with interim decision points with various levels of government.

A copy of TransLink's proposed work plan and preliminary timeline is attached as Appendix "I".

Surrey-Langley SkyTrain

Surrey-Langley SkyTrain Work Plan

TransLink's proposed work plan for the SLS project has a proposed duration of 15-months from initiation to the issuance of the Request for Qualifications, subject to review and approval timelines from other levels of government. Their work plan has parallel work streams, beginning with team recruitment, design development, costs and benefits, investment plan update, and business case submission.

Preliminary work on a SkyTrain alignment was developed in 2016 and 2017, as part of a comparison analysis for rapid transit alternatives. The work completed by TransLink in 2016-2017 included a conceptual alignment and station locations along Fraser Highway, preliminary costs and ridership projections, estimate of vehicle fleet, a potential bus exchange in Langley, and a new maintenance facility.

Figure 1 shows TransLink's 2017 concept alignment and station locations, which are being reviewed as part of the current work plan.

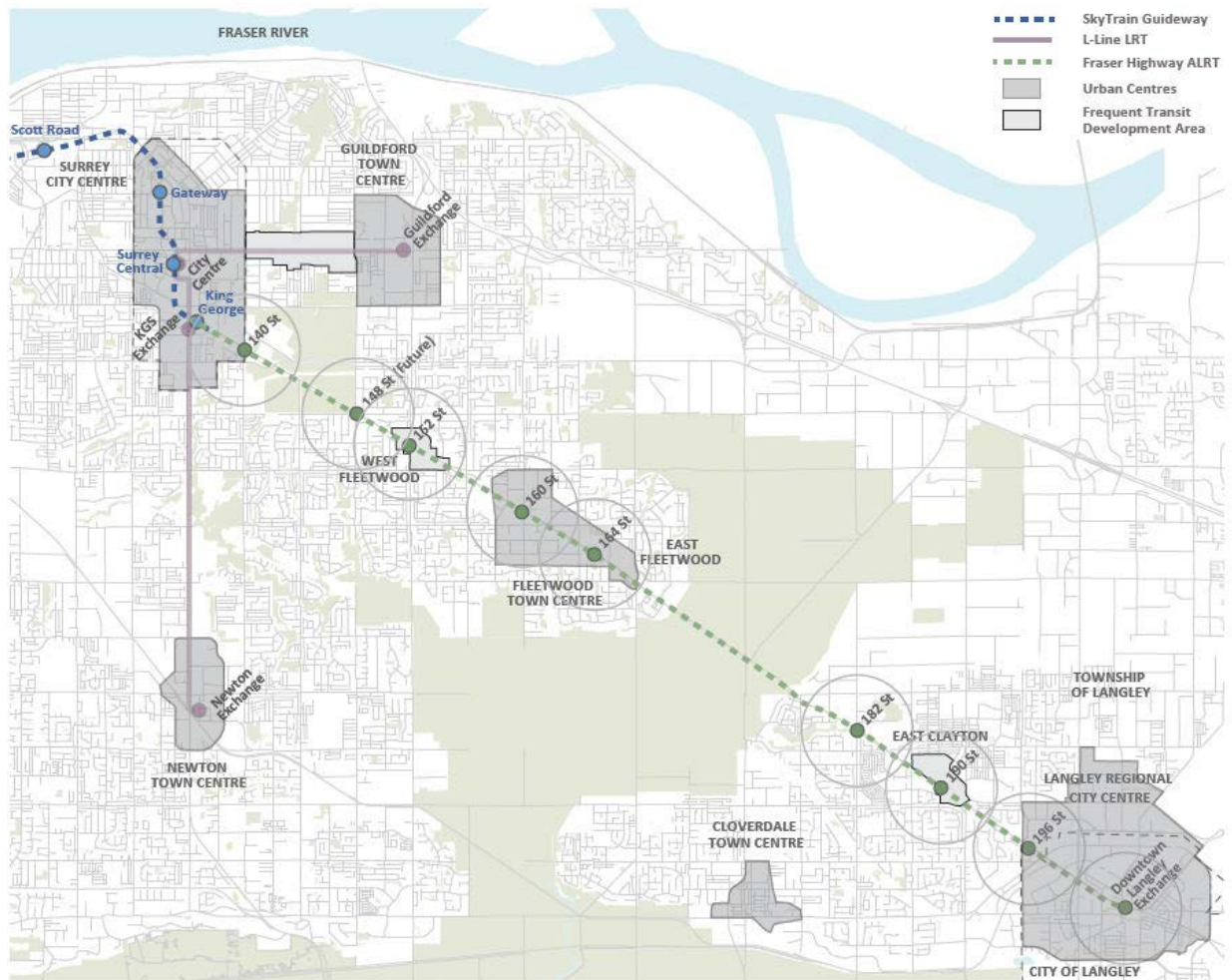


Figure 1: TransLink's 2017 Alignment Concept Summary

City Involvement

Work on the SLS project is proceeding quickly and on schedule, utilizing the conceptual work completed in 2017 and incorporating recent experience from the Evergreen SkyTrain project. TransLink has achieved the first critical milestone of securing an Owner's Engineer team and is actively working on establishing the design requirements.

The City has established a dedicated project team for the SLS project, supported by additional staff resources from various departments, to ensure the project integrates with the City's strategic initiatives.

City staff are working in collaboration with TransLink and their engineers on the data gathering and input into the design requirements stage. As part of the design requirements and development stage, City staff will be working with TransLink to confirm:

- Guideway placement along Fraser Highway;
- Fraser Highway cross-section and intersection treatment;
- Land-use planning, population and employment projections along the corridor;
- Number and location of stations;
- Station accessibility and design features;
- Transit integration including potential bus exchange and/or park and ride facilities; and
- Partnership Agreements and municipal contributions.

City staff will be working with TransLink to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to address the investments made during the development of the SNG LRT project, many of which help to advance 27 km of rapid transit in Surrey.

Throughout the next nine months, City staff will be providing project information, updates and reports on key design requirements. Concurrently, TransLink will be providing check-in opportunities with the Mayors' Council and TransLink Board through the Draft and Final Business Case, Project Partnership Agreements with municipalities, and Investment Plan.

Planned SkyTrain Project Timelines

Based on TransLink's proposed work plan, the current SLS project timelines are as follows:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Public Engagement: | April 2019 |
| • Complete Preliminary Design and Costing: | May/June 2019 |
| • Draft Business Case to Mayor's Council: | July 2019 |
| • Finalize Reference Design, Costs and Business Case: | November/December 2019 |
| • Complete Phase 3 Investment Plan: | Spring 2020 |
| • Issue Request for Qualifications and Procurement: | Spring 2020* |
| • Construction: | 2021 - 2025* |
| • Surrey-Langley SkyTrain Start of Service: | 2025* |

* Pending approval of Business Case from Provincial and Federal Governments.

City staff are working hard with TransLink staff to accelerate this schedule wherever possible.

South of the Fraser Rapid Transit Strategy Refresh

On a parallel work stream, TransLink has initiated a planning process to refresh the SoFRT strategy, consistent with the 10-Year Vision of building 27 km of rapid transit on the three corridors (104 Avenue, King George Boulevard and Fraser Highway).

The SoFRT refresh is being developed based on guiding resolutions from the Mayors' Council, which are paraphrased as follows:

1. The technology on the Fraser Highway corridor is SkyTrain;
2. The timing of the Fraser Highway corridor now precedes rapid transit along the SNG corridor (104 Avenue and King George Boulevard) utilizing the \$1.6 billion in funding secured through the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Investment Plans; and
3. The funding identified for 27 km of rapid transit along the three corridors is \$3.5 billion, potentially subject to further review through finalization of the Phase 3 Investment Plan.

As part of the SoFRT refresh work plan, over the next eight months, City staff will be working in collaboration with TransLink to:

- Confirm land-use planning, population and employment projections along 104 Avenue and King George Boulevard;
- Update ridership and demand forecasts;
- Identify alternatives and implications for various technologies along the SNG corridor;
- Participate in a public engagement process, led by TransLink;
- Formalize an updated strategy for rapid transit on SNG, along with funding and timing; and
- Incorporate this strategy into the Regional Transportation Strategy Update.

Upcoming Public Engagement

TransLink, with participation from City staff, will be commencing public engagement and communications on both the SLS project and SoFRT refresh.

The first round of public engagement on the SLS project and SoFRT refresh will take place between April 8 and April 26, 2019, providing individuals with an opportunity to:

- Learn about rapid transit planning work on Fraser Highway, 104 Avenue and King George Boulevard;
- Share their thoughts on priorities for transit, opportunities and concerns for these corridors; and
- Complete a survey that will help to inform planning work.

There will be multiple opportunities for the public to get involved and provide feedback on these projects. Engagement will take the form of an online survey, open houses, and pop-up events in Surrey City Centre, Newton, Fleetwood, Guildford, and Langley. A marketing campaign will take place prior to and during the engagement period, which will include, but is not limited to, print and digital advertisements, e-letter updates, and social media.

Updates on public engagement opportunities, including the dates and locations of the public open houses will be posted online at TransLink's project website at www.surreylangleyskytrain.ca.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Progress toward the delivery of 27 km of rapid transit South of the Fraser, including SkyTrain along Fraser Highway, supports the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, these rapid transit initiatives relate to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Built Environment and Neighbourhoods, and Infrastructure. Specifically, this work supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO"):

- Neighbourhoods and Urban Design DO₂: Surrey is well-connected within the City and to the rest of the Region by fast and efficient public transit and active all-ages-and-abilities transportation infrastructures; and
- Transportation DO₁₁: An integrated and multi-modal transportation network offers affordable, convenient, accessible and safe transportation choices within the community and to regional destinations.

CONCLUSION

TransLink, in collaboration with City staff, has commenced the planning and project development of SkyTrain along Fraser Highway, with a schedule for completion of a Draft Business Case by July 25, 2019 for review and approval by the Mayors' Council. Public engagement on the SLS project and SoFRT planning refresh for the SNG corridor will commence in April 2019.

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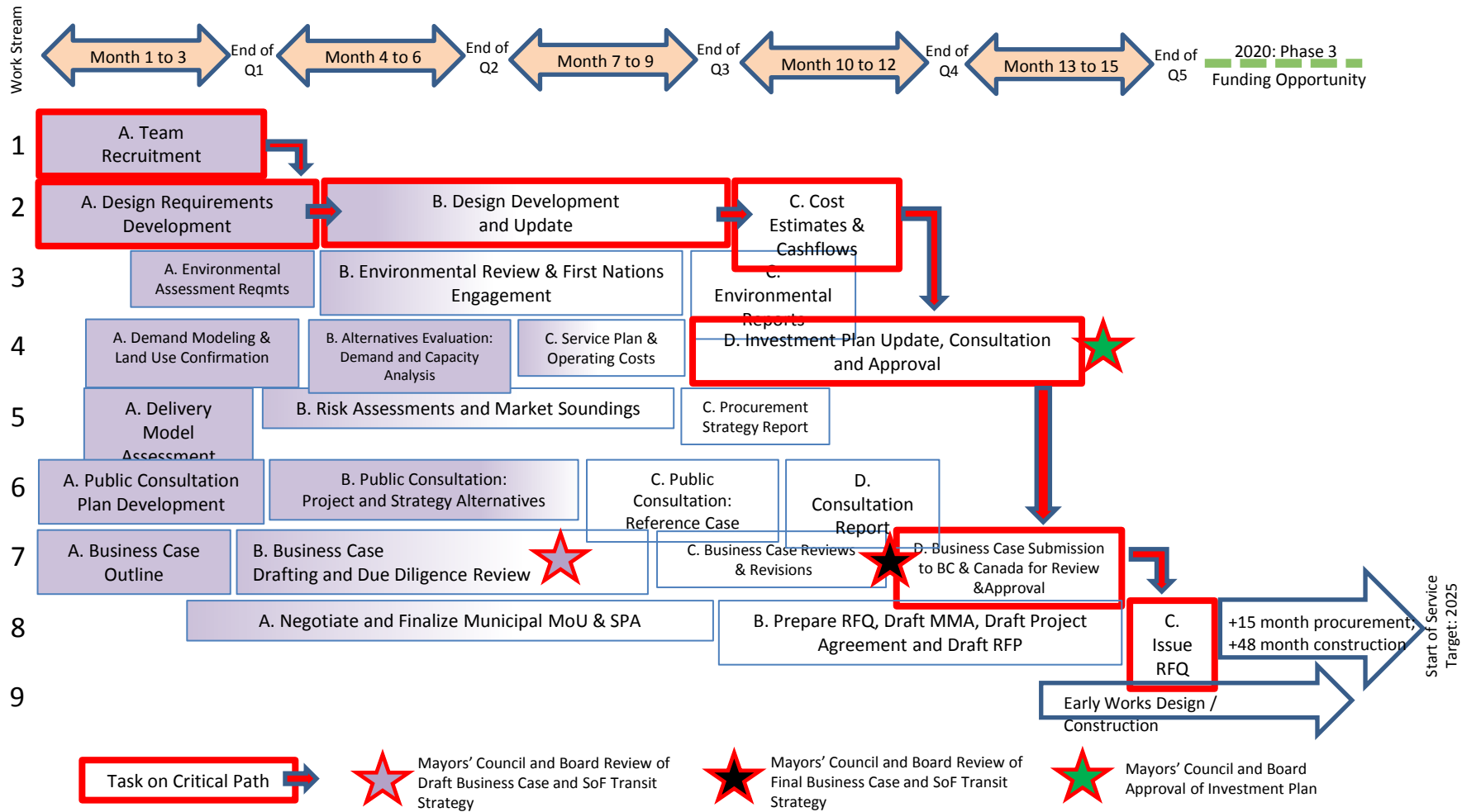
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Appendix "1" – Surrey-Langley SkyTrain Project Development and South of the Fraser Transit Strategy Timeline

Surrey Langley SkyTrain Project Development & SoF Transit Strategy Timeline

Durations are Estimates and Subject to Change

Dec 3 2018



Confidential Draft: for Discussion Only