

BRIEFING

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Item # 5.2.1

Transportation Briefing to
SPC on Transportation and Transit
2021 April 21

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Goods Movement Strategy Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

City Council approved Calgary's Goods Movement Strategy on December 17, 2018 ([TT2018-1289](#)). The strategy was the first comprehensive study on goods movement in Calgary. One of the recommendations of the Goods Movement Strategy was to direct Administration to report back to Council with an update on the implementation, through the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and Transit no later than Q2 2021. This briefing outlines the advancement of some of the short-term action items within the strategy.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Advisory Group:

Throughout the development of the Goods Movement Strategy, Administration collaborated with Calgary Economic Development's Transportation & Logistics Advisory Committee. In fall 2018, this committee was concluded and replaced with The Calgary Goods Movement and Logistics Advisory Group (Advisory Group) ([TT2019-0719](#)).

The Advisory Group provides guidance on implementing the Goods Movement Strategy and improving Calgary's potential as an inland market, focusing on identifying opportunities to benefit Calgary's transportation and logistics industries. The mandate, responsibilities and structure of the Advisory Group are outlined in Attachment 1. Members of the Advisory Group include Councillor Chahal (Chair), Councillor Davison (Vice-Chair), Councillor Farkas, Calgary Economic Development, the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, University of Calgary, and other public and private partners. The Advisory Group meets quarterly to investigate goods movement issues and coordinate solutions; the meetings also include presentations from public and private organizations, academia, and industry updates.

Establishing the Advisory Group has been a significant first step towards the implementation of the Goods Movement Strategy. The Advisory Group maintained industry support, interest, and momentum even during the first year of the pandemic. Continued successful administration of the Advisory Group will help achieve the Calgary Goods Movement Strategy's vision and benefit our economy. Sustained support from Council, through participation in the Advisory Group and supporting projects that are important for goods movement and economic development, is critical for this important initiative.

Goods Movement & Economy:

Implementation of the Goods Movement Strategy supports Calgary's economic development by ensuring the efficiency of goods movement, making Calgary a more competitive destination for businesses to locate. The Goods Movement Strategy has attracted significant interest from the public and private sectors and has fostered collaboration with stakeholders such as Calgary Economic Development (CED) and the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB).

CED provides regular updates to the Advisory Group about relevant events, including New Economy LIVE: The Future of 5G for Calgary's Connectivity, the Chamber of Commerce Transportation & Logistics Webinar, and the Calgary Economic Development Report to the Community. CED has also offered connections with industry partners and support for various Goods Movement Strategy implementation initiatives, such as Mount Royal University's Artificial Intelligence-powered Digital Twin for Trucks project. CED will also give an update on Transportation & Logistics Value Proposition at the next Advisory Group meeting scheduled for May 27, 2021.

Correspondingly, CMRB'S current draft Regional Growth Plan indicates strong linkages between goods movement and the regional transportation and transit plan proposed for the Calgary Metropolitan Region. Policies in the draft plan suggest that regional transportation plans should (a) identify strategies to minimize the effects of commuter congestion on important goods movement and trade routes; (b) identify a network of priority routes for regional goods movement, linking key hubs such as intermodal facilities and the Calgary International Airport with an emphasis on reliability; and (c) protect the integrity of major goods movement routes through coordination with land use planning.

Goods Movement Strategy - Implementation:

Throughout the development of the Goods Movement Strategy, stakeholders identified both infrastructure and non-infrastructure related challenges. The strategy proposed several actions to address these challenges using six strategic directions (presented in the [Calgary Goods Movement Strategy Report](#)). The six strategic directions and subsequent action items were informed by analysis of truck travel data in and around Calgary, stakeholder feedback, best practices review and jurisdictional surveys. One of the strategic directions was to enhance last-kilometre deliveries, and as part of this direction (provided in Attachment 2), the Advisory Group documented and prioritized six potential short-term projects.

The Truck Travel Improvement Study was the first of the prioritized potential short-term projects supported by the Advisory Group; it identified recommendations to ensure Calgary remains competitive by maintaining and improving the goods movement network to support industrial areas and commercial traffic generators. The study was initiated by Administration in early 2020 and completed in March 2021. The traffic and safety analysis, literature review and public engagement process conducted as part of the study delivered insight on specific improvements that The City could implement to reduce congestion and improve safety for trucks.

Recommendations from the study include coordination with the 52 Street East Bus Rapid Transit Functional Planning Study (that is funded through the Municipal Stimulus Program), traffic operational and intersection safety improvements, and to further explore the potential for Freight Signal Priority. An evaluation of 15 locations where truck flow and/or safety might improve, showed that many intersections could operate more efficiently during the peak periods by making signal timing changes. The Roads Business Unit has been engaged in these changes and will make the signal timing updates at three separate locations in the coming months. The team is also working to identify intersections where Freight Signal Priority could be implemented; this measure will improve travel time by prioritizing the movement of trucks at intersections. The next steps include identifying pilot intersections along main goods movement corridors in the city.

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Goods Movement Research Initiatives:

Mount Royal University and the University of Calgary have been strong supporters and key stakeholders in developing the Goods Movement Strategy. Together they have hosted symposiums and round table conversations to inform the strategy.

The University of Calgary is developing a smart routing system for goods transportation in extreme weather, like what we experience in Calgary. To achieve this, the university is investigating traffic patterns and undertaking flow modelling to further predict traffic congestion in our routing system. The Goods Movement Strategy team has helped secure funding for the project from the National Research Council and continues to be a valued partner.

As part of the Goods Movement Strategy implementation, Administration worked closely with Mount Royal University on their initiative to develop an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered digital twin platform for trucks to help small and mid-sized trucking operators in Calgary. The Advisory Group championed this initiative with support from Calgary Economic Development, and the Alberta Motor Transport Association. An application for the Council Innovation Fund in support of the project was submitted through the Priorities and Finance Committee in February 2021. Council approved \$50,000 for this initiative. The Goods Movement Strategy team will continue to assist Mount Royal University on the implementation and evaluation of the project.

Next Steps:

Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan, which aligns with the broader Downtown Strategy, identifies that the move to e-commerce/online retailing will change the character of our streets and retail centres, requiring new and innovative concepts to fill those spaces. The next project towards implementing the Goods Movement Strategy is the Role of E-Commerce in Calgary's Goods Movement Network and will be initiated in Q3 2021. This project was ranked second out of six projects (shown in Attachment 2) by the Advisory Group and aims to highlight the importance of e-commerce to Calgary's economy. Furthermore, the project will identify strategies to manage the demands for deliveries, directing deliveries to a local library or collection site for pick-up, for example.

Reviewing The City's bylaws related to goods movement was one of the objectives of the Goods Movement Strategy. An update to the Truck Route Bylaw is planned to be brought forward to Council in 2022.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. At a Glance – Calgary Goods Movement and Logistics Advisory Group
2. Strategic Direction – Enhance Last Kilometre Deliveries