

B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER 26, 2014

4:00PM

YVR

ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION	Anne Murray, Vancouver Airport Authority Meg Comisky, Vancouver Airport Authority Ian Smedley, Vancouver Airport Authority James Blake, Vancouver Airport Authority
MOTI REPRESENTATIVES	Kirsten Pedersen, Executive Project Director, BC on the Move, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Dave Bachynski, Senior Manager, Air & Marine, Pacific Gateway Branch, MoTI Helen Berthin, Director, Infrastructure Development, Southern Corridor, Pacific Gateway Branch, MoTI Brad Glazer, Director, Infrastructure Development, Northern Corridor, Pacific Gateway Branch, MoTI
NOTE TAKER	Carmen Bennett, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
KEY THEMES (3-6)	
1)	Airports: Participants noted that the Vancouver International Airport plays a number of different roles, in terms of connecting and strengthening communities, contributing to the wider transportation network, and growing the economy. Participants noted that they see the importance of laying out these themes in the plan.
2)	Airports: Participants noted that there are elements of the transportation network that need to be improved to support the Airport's strategic plan and to facilitate the movement of people and goods.
3)	Transit: Participants highlighted the importance of public transit in servicing access to the Airport, noting their support for further expansion of transportation services.
4)	Airports: Participants highlighted key areas of Highway 99 and other road infrastructure, where improvements will be beneficial for access to the airport and movement of goods and cargo.
5)	Transportation planning: Participants noted that YVR's mandate is to create jobs and economic opportunity, and the strategic plan is to become a world-class sustainable gateway connecting Asia to the Americas. Participants noted that there are some policies and regulations that will need to be reviewed at the federal level so YVR can remain competitive in this respect.
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that YVR's strategic plan is focused on increasing its status as a world-class, sustainable gateway airport, and there are certain regulatory and policy challenges that can impede its ability to be competitive. Participants noted that there are certain access points to the airport that are becoming congested, and improvements to Highway 99 would help with this access. Participants noted that expanded public transit is necessary for servicing the airport more efficiently. Access to the airport is important for travelers, employees, and for movement of goods and cargo that contribute to economic growth in the Province.
MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES	
1)	Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant noted that the Vancouver Airport Authority has a few different roles. In terms of connecting and strengthening communities, the Airport owns some infrastructure, such as bridges, roads and cycling networks. Another piece concerns the wider transportation network in the region to which the Airport is connected. The third piece is the role the airport plays in growing the economy. The participant noted that they see the importance of laying out these themes in the plan. One participant noted that YVR operates a roads network with access to the airport, and is looking at some necessary improvements to this network. The participant highlighted that new and future economic development on Sea Island is a consideration in this respect. A participant noted that one of YVR's goals is to keep passenger fees low; so increasing voluntary revenue is a strategy (e.g. through further economic development opportunities on Sea Island). The Airport's strategic plan includes a potential new Canada Line station that would service more business on Sea Island. One issue of concern is the Airport's connection to Highway 99. Being connected to the ports is necessary to facilitate the movement of cargo. The swing bridge is one way eastbound, which can create a bottleneck. One of the projects that the Airport would be interested in partnering with the Province on would include solutions to this bottleneck. The participant noted there needs to be a coordinated approach to all the entrances and exits along the highway, in order to mitigate bottlenecks in other areas. The Airport is supportive of improvements to Highway 99, including plans for the George Massey Bridge. Participants questioned whether the swing bridge is being included as a consideration as part of the George Massey corridor.
2)	Growing the Economy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant noted that the strategic plan is for YVR to be a world-class sustainable gateway connecting Asia to the

Americas. YVR is in a good place to capture a good share of that traffic, but other U.S. airports have similar aspirations to be a gateway airport. YVR's mandate is to create jobs and economic opportunity. Participants acknowledged that a number of the policies that impact air access are federal.	
3) Connecting and Strengthening Communities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vancouver Airport Authority noted that it has started work on a ground access model. Some local issues include the No. 2 Road Bridge, Russ Baker Way, and the Arthur Lang Bridge, which are major commuter routes. Ensuring people continue to have access to the airport is important. The Airport is interested in issues related to public transit, and supports the expansion of the Millenium Line down the Broadway Corridor, as this would provide some redundancy to the system so that people have more transportation options. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant noted that the transportation piece is very important from an employment perspective for the airport, as good transit increases the pool for potential employees. While YVR supports the Broadway Corridor as a whole, the first piece, which would provide connection to Canada Line, is very important to the airport. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted they are already seeing congestion on the Canada Line and are interested in expanding the line (e.g., by adding another car), to increase transportation options. 	
4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that access is not always the problem, but a number of other things that facilitate transportation come into consideration, including transit without visa (to accommodate international traveler connections). YVR is working with the Federal Government on this particular policy, and questioned the Province's role in supporting aviation in British Columbia. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that keeping this section of the plan at a high level allows it to be adaptive and flexible, given that a number of aviation policies are federal. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant representing the Pacific Gateway Branch noted that this is a strategic initiative that provides a road map. 	
TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants prioritized infrastructure projects, such as improvements to Highway 99, the swing bridge, Russ Baker Way and No. 2 Road Bridge, which would support access to the airport. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed the importance of public transit in terms of increasing and enabling connections to the airport, for travelers, economic development opportunities, and employment. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that supporting aviation policies, such as transit without visa, is important for increasing YVR's competitive status as a gateway airport. 	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants discussed elements of the Vancouver Airport Authority's strategic plan and land use plan, noting that the strategic plan sets ambitious goals for 2020. YVR's vision is to be a world class sustainable airport. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One participant noted that growth in aviation to small communities is driven somewhat by competition between carriers. The participant noted that work camps are also a consideration in the growth of air transportation demand. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirsten Pedersen noted that B.C. on the Move will be a multi-modal plan, and will also reflect different geographic and regional considerations. 	