

WINNIPEG TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

Summer 2011 Newsletter



The City of Winnipeg initiated the process of preparing a Transportation Master Plan (TMP), in conjunction with OurWinnipeg, the proposed new development plan. The TMP is building on the framework presented in the document titled Sustainable Transportation that Winnipeg City Council endorsed in principle in July, 2010.

As a follow-up to the open house held in November, 2010, a second one is planned for July 6, 2011 to display the major directions for the transportation system based on the data collected and feedback from the public and stakeholder groups. This open house provides an opportunity for your input, see more event details on the last page.

What We Have Heard

Over the past several months, the study team met with over 15 stakeholder groups representing a diverse range of organizations, conducted a survey completed by approximately 500 people, and held the first open house. Many great ideas were received and are being incorporated into the transportation plan. The overarching themes heard were as follows:

- The creation of a new transportation plan is timely and essential for all to see what the transportation system will look like in 30 years
- The plan must balance Winnipeg's unique characteristics with the desire for major transformative changes
- Rapid transit is essential to allow the city to grow in a sustainable manner
- The transportation plan should not assume the status quo, but plan for the next generation
- The plan must be strong on implementation to ensure early and sustained action on major transportation initiatives

What to expect in the Transportation Master Plan

The purpose of a Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is to present a long term strategy to guide the renewal and development of transportation services in a manner that is consistent with projected needs, and consistent with the overall vision for a Sustainable Winnipeg. The TMP also provides recommendations on municipal transportation investment and priorities. The TMP will address all modes of transportation including walking, cycling, transit, automobiles and goods movement.

Using Land Use to Achieve Transportation Goals

A major component of the TMP involved developing a computer model which examines in detail the impact of OurWinnipeg land use policies and projections on transportation. As expected and consistent with *Complete Communities*, concentrating development along regional centres and corridors and in major redevelopment areas is good for transit and good

for the creation of more walkable communities. Rapid transit can help to ensure that growth is attracted to centres and corridors, and that people have travel options other than private vehicles. However, even with this concentration of development, the city will need to accommodate population and employment in new growth areas. These new growth areas can also be designed to be walkable and transit friendly. Key strategies:

- Continue to integrate transportation and land use planning
- Execute policies in Complete Communities to accelerate the development of more compact and mixed use communities
- Expand on existing development guidelines to ensure that new developments are designed to promote sustainable transportation options

A Pedestrian-First Approach



Planning for all pedestrians

Most often, walkable communities tend to be the most desirable and livable communities within a city. Beyond simply expanding and widening sidewalks, there are many things that Winnipeg can do to promote walkable and pedestrian-friendly communities:

- Adopt a complete streets policy which aims to ensure that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a street
- Improve pedestrian connections between neighbourhoods and transit stops
- Implement traffic calming to support walkable communities

- Conduct community walkability audits
- Plan every development from the eyes of a pedestrian

Building the Cycling Network



Creating safe space for cyclists

Over the past several years, Winnipeg has made great strides in expanding the cycling network. These investments will pay off as energy costs rise, and as drivers make the connection between increased cyclists and reduced congestion. As part of the TMP, some strategies being considered:

- Refining the 2008 Active Transportation (AT) network plan, with the goal of competing the basic cycling network
- Creating a network of cycling “spines” or “super-corridors” that connect each regional centre
- Increase bicycle parking throughout the downtown and in centres and corridors

Taking Transit to the Next Level

As Winnipeg and the surrounding area grows from 750,000 people to almost 1 million people, transit will need to take a much greater role. Accordingly, OurWinnipeg outlined a plan to implement rapid transit in five corridors. While the technology may vary by corridor, the defining element of Rapid Transit is that it will operate in dedicated lanes or corridors. The TMP has confirmed the viability of these corridors and will be refining the rapid transit strategy over the coming months.

Other key transit strategies include:

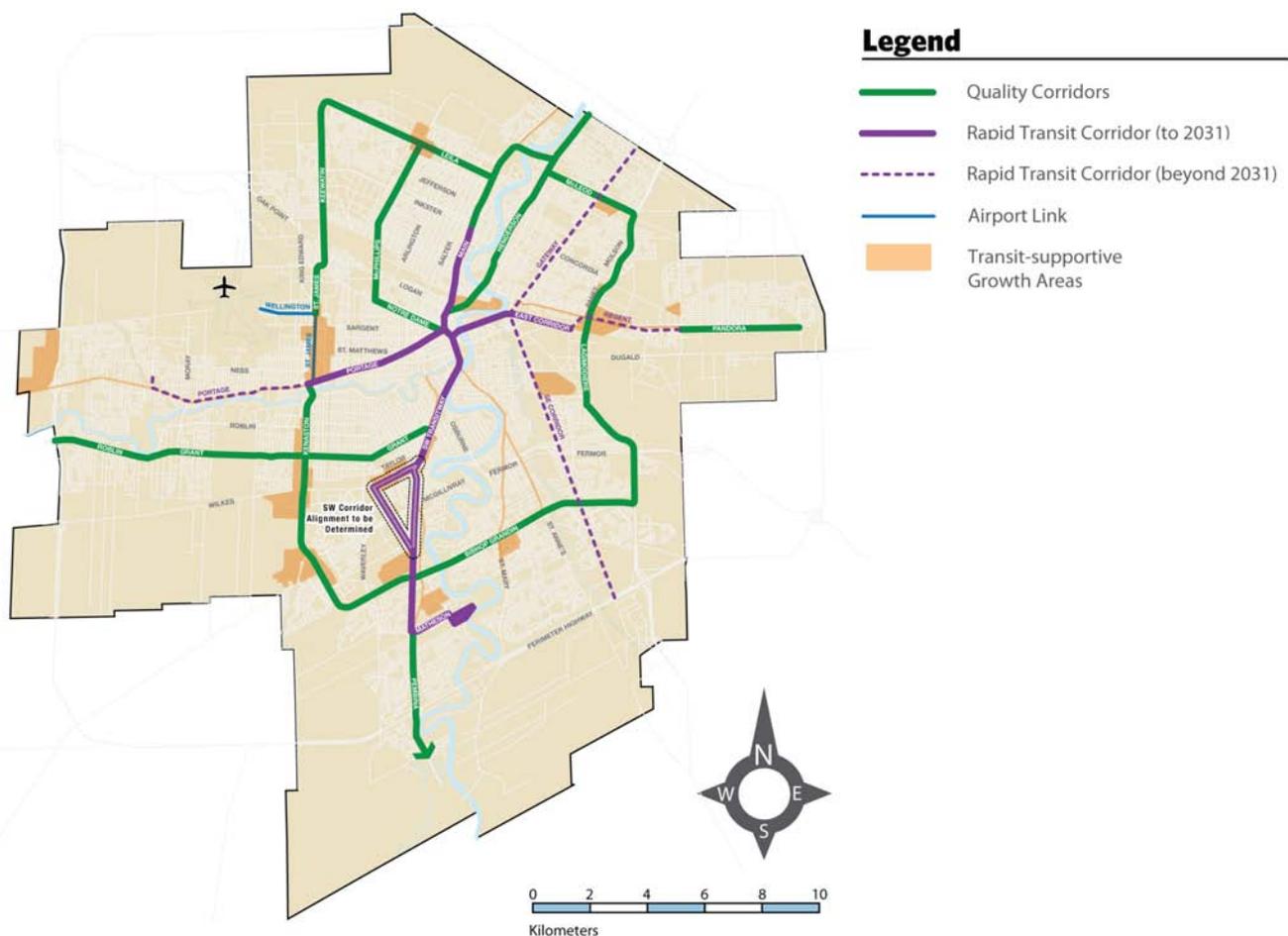
- Expand the base transit system and service levels to accommodate growth and to serve new communities
- Implement improvements to expand walking and cycling connections to transit
- Expand park and ride in conjunction with rapid transit
- Extending transit into surrounding communities such as East St. Paul

Roads

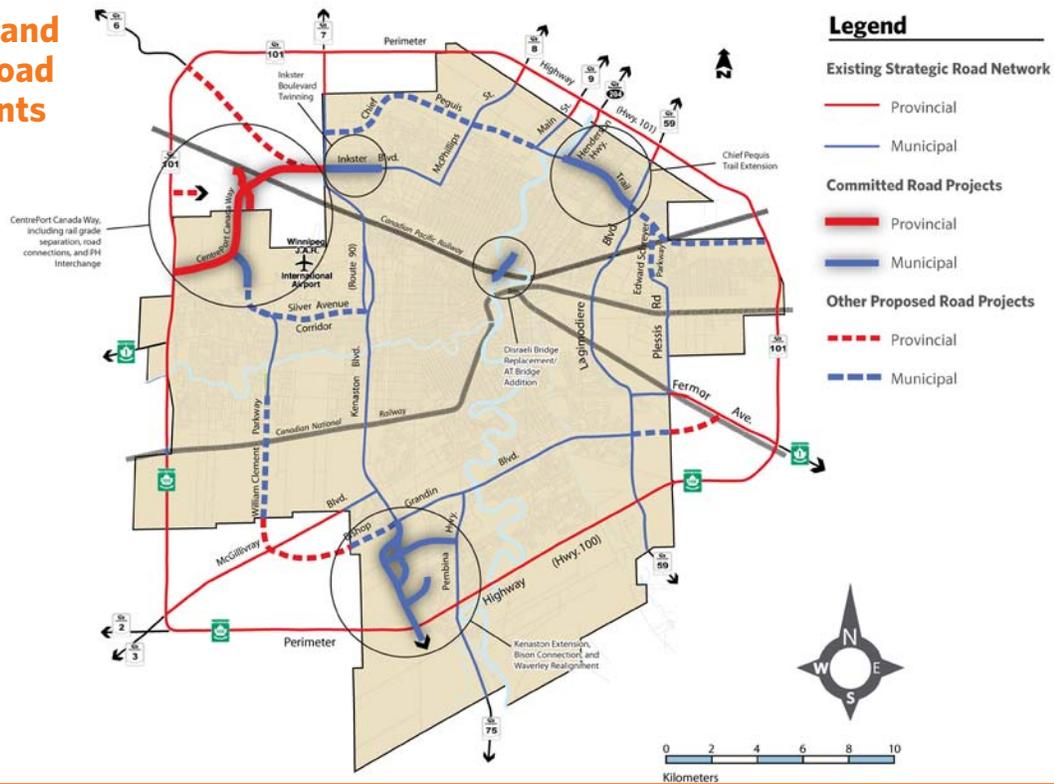
As population and employment increases, there will be more pressure on the road system. An underlying principle of the TMP is to optimize the existing road system before considering road expansion. However, there are several strategic road improvements that will help to improve connectivity throughout the City. These include links such as CentrePort Canada Way, Chief Peguis Trail extensions, William Clement Parkway and Bishop Grandin Boulevard extensions.

As part of the TMP, a new road classification system will also be developed to help the public understand what is expected for each type of roadway.

Draft Rapid Transit Network



Committed and Proposed Road Improvements



Goods Movement

Goods movement is essential to Winnipeg's economy and is a major consideration in the TMP. Key strategies will include:

- Identifying a Strategic Goods Movement Network
- Planning new communities to avoid conflicts with industrial areas, strategic corridors
- Upgrading the strategic goods movement network to accommodate larger vehicles
- Using technology to assist with freight planning and routing
- Establish on-going partnerships with the goods movement industry

Next Steps

Over the summer the TMP team will be refining the above strategies and preparing the overall master plan document. Additional public open houses are being planned for Fall 2011 to obtain comments on the draft plan, which will then be refined and presented to council for approval.

Keeping Informed

We would like to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please visit our Website and provide your feedback.

<http://transportation.speakupwinnipeg.com>

Or **Attend the Upcoming Open House**

When: Wednesday, July 6, 2011 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: The Forks Market Atrium (near the bottom of the tower)

Contact:

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