

BACKGROUND

Distributed March 2, 2017

2017 Nanaimo Transportation Survey

Why is the Nanaimo Transportation Survey being conducted?

Understanding existing and future transportation need is fundamental to creating a livable community and prioritizing investment.

The 2017 Transportation Survey builds on a similar survey undertaken in 2012 to create the 2014 Nanaimo Master Transportation Plan. Valid and accurate data is critical for the City to monitor and project transportation requirements. The gathered information will be used to identify changes in transportation patterns, guide long range planning and design of Nanaimo's transportation network and help shape land use planning and development decisions.

What information is being gathered?

The information being collected includes the number of pedestrians, cyclists, transit passengers and vehicles passing specific points in the transportation network during weekday periods. Information will also be collected on motorized vehicle type (passenger automobile, bus, light duty truck, heavy truck, motorcycle, etc.) and occupancy of vehicles at key points. Information on transit ridership by route, trip and stop, as well as use of transit bus bike racks and accessibility features will also be collected.

How is data being collected?

A variety of methods will be used and linked and layered together to ensure the most comprehensive data collection. The sources include:

- **Automated Counts** of various means, including use of counting equipment that deploys hoses across vehicle lanes, information from traffic signal sensors located in intersection pavement, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure permanent count stations as well as BC Ferries sailing data from its three Nanaimo-area terminals.
- **Intersection Counts** at nineteen intersections which will be undertaken using temporary installation of video cameras to record information. This information will be used to count and summarize offsite the number of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, vehicle type and vehicle occupancy.
- **Transit Ridership Counts** on all Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) transit routes serving the City of Nanaimo. A portion of the counts will be conducted by RDN transit operators with the remainder undertaken by count staff riding buses.

How will the collected data be used?

The collected and summarized information will be used to:

- Help confirm and define trends in transportation mode usage over time.
- Define future trends and priorities relating to walking/rolling, cycling and transit along key corridors (routes), as well as movement of goods and vehicles through and within the City.
- Determine trends that influence policy decisions, such as GHG policies and targets.
- Look at how transit ridership has changed since the implementation of the first phases of the Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Future Plan, as well as where further investment in bus shelters or sidewalk improvements should be considered.

When will the counts take place?

The various counts for the survey will take place during the period from March 4 to June 15, 2017. The counts focus on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays as these days have been shown to present the most typical travel patterns in the Nanaimo area.

No surveys will take place during the two-week school Spring Break period and transit counts have been organized to also finish prior to the end of regular classes at Vancouver Island University.

Overall Data Collection Timeline	
Count Type	Anticipated Timing
<i>Automated Counts (All Types)</i>	<i>24 hours per day, Mar 7 – Mar 16, 2017; Apr 4 - Jun 15, 2017</i>
<i>Intersection Counts</i>	<i>Tuesday-Thursday, Mar 7 – Mar 16, 2017; Apr 4 – May 12, 2017</i>
<i>Transit Ridership Counts</i>	<i>Tuesday-Thursday, Mar 7 – Mar 16, 2017; Apr 4 – Apr 6, 2017</i>

Does the project comply with privacy legislation?

Yes, the project complies with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. None of the collected survey information has attributes that will be linked with personal information or specific individuals. Video footage collected for the Intersection Counts is of a temporary nature and once viewed to record number and type of vehicles and vehicle occupancy it will be overwritten.

While vehicle license plates will be viewable in the video footage, these are not being recorded and are not being linked to registered owner information in any way. Transit ridership information records the number of passengers only and does not include any identifying information. Once entered, verified and summarized, all initial data sheets and sources will be confidentially destroyed.

How and when will survey results be made available?

It is expected that Survey Results will be summarized and tabulated by July 2017. A summary of the results will be made available on the City of Nanaimo website. It is expected that a further Media Release will be provided at that time indicating key results and where citizens can find out more.