

Transportation

RGS Goal:

Reduce traffic congestion through development of an efficient and affordable multi-modal transportation system.

Issue Overview

Safe, efficient and accessible transportation systems are vital to a more sustainable Central Okanagan. The RGS will be a vehicle for guiding provincial transportation infrastructure and transit decisions and provides an opportunity to establish common priorities for investment in a sustainable, efficient and accessible transportation system.

Current Situation

Like other Regional Districts, ours faces a number of challenges in improving regional transportation, but also has some unique opportunities.



- » **Public transit:** While transit services have improved and ridership increased, only 3% of people currently commute to work by transit, about equal to the provincial average. BC Transit's Transit Future Plan envisions a transit market share of 7% in 2035, or an increase in ridership from 4.3 million in 2010 to 16 million passengers a year by 2035. This will involve an expansion of the new RapidBus service along Highway 97 to West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation. Higher frequency transit services are difficult to provide to some areas in our region where there are lower population densities or more dispersed rural populations.
- » **Walking and biking:** The City of Kelowna is working hard to support cycling and walking in the city. While other municipalities and Electoral Areas are also working to improve, link and coordinate walking and cycling networks, only 7% of people in the region walk or bike to work.
- » **Potential growth in un-serviced locations:** New, large-scale developments in widely separated locations makes effective public transit servicing difficult and would likely increase single-occupancy vehicle travel in the region. Currently, 90% of people get to work by private vehicle in our region.

