



Metro Vancouver Mobility Pricing Independent Commission Minutes - Meeting 3 November 27, 2017

Minutes of the Metro Vancouver Mobility Pricing Independent Commission (MPIC) Meeting held Monday, November 27, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Doctors of BC Boardroom, 1665 West Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia.

PRESENT:

Allan Seckel, Chair

Joy MacPhail, Vice-Chair

Iain Black

Jennifer Clarke

Harj Dhaliwal

Paul Landry

Lori MacDonald

Graham McCargar

Gavin McGarrigle

Michael McKnight

Bruce Rozenhart

Philip (Pip) Steele

Grace Wong

REGRETS:

Elizabeth Model

ALSO PRESENT:

Daniel Firth, Mobility Pricing Independent
Commission Staff Secretariat

Fearghal King, Mobility Pricing Independent
Commission Staff Secretariat

Sabrina Lau Texier, TransLink (for Item 5)

Lindsay Neufeld, Mobility Pricing
Independent Commission Staff Secretariat

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

1. Chair's Welcome

Allan Seckel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

He acknowledged the recently held "It's Time" workshops and acknowledged the viewpoints and ideas shared by participants.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the September 6, 2017 Mobility Pricing Independent Commission Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Progress Overview

Daniel Firth, Executive Director, reviewed a chart of MPIC meetings, deliverables, deadlines and other activities, scheduled August 2017 to April 2018. Comments were offered regarding significant decisions anticipated at the remaining MPIC meetings, prior to the April 2018 deadline.

4. Review of Evidence on Congestion

Fearghal King, Manager, Research and Analytics, reviewed the presentation titled “Measuring Congestion”, and offered comments regarding maps of key congestion locations, including:

- Fraser River crossings
- Water crossings between Richmond, YVR and Vancouver
- Major arterials in Vancouver and Burnaby
- Urban centres
- North Shore
- Northeast sector
- Regional highways
- Metropolitan core.

During discussion, the feasibility of potentially trialing shortlisted policy instruments in key congestion locations was suggested.

5. Review of Evidence on Revenue

Sabrina Lau Texier, TransLink, reviewed the presentation titled “10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transportation”, and offered comments regarding:

- Annual transit boardings, by regional population from 1999 to 2016
- The 10-Year Vision, including transit routes and expansion
- Phases One, Two and Three of the 10-Year Vision
- Regional revenue options and funding needs.

During discussion, comments were offered regarding:

- Recent transit improvements
- Benefits of focusing initially on revenue neutral processes
- The importance of clear and consistent public messaging
- Varying perspectives on how mobility pricing should occur

- Prioritizing three objectives: congestion, fairness and revenues
- Confirming the “vehicle of authority” of mobility pricing mechanisms.

6. Preliminary Findings of Phase 1 Engagement

Vincent Gonsalves, TransLink, reviewed the document titled, “It’s Time – Phase 1 Stakeholder and Public Engagement Summary”, and a series of overhead slides on the feedback received through the engagement sessions, surveys, and questionnaires. He reviewed next steps, including:

- November 28, 2017: User Advisory Panel Workshop
- November 28, 2017: Meeting with North Vancouver Council
- December 4, 2017: Presentation to stakeholders in Horseshoe Bay (e.g. BC Ferries, Squamish and Bowen Island)
- December 5, 2017: Meeting with Coquitlam City Council.

7. Coarse-Level Evaluation of Policy Instruments

Lindsay Neufeld, MPIC, reviewed the presentation titled “Policy Instrument Coarse-Level Evaluation”, referred to the report titled “Road Usage Charging Policy Instruments for Motor Vehicles, Coarse-level Evaluation”, dated November 21, 2017, and offered comments regarding:

- Potential policy instruments, which were coarsely evaluated against the following criteria: congestion, fairness, investment, and implementation ease
- Selecting policy instruments to further analyze, for preliminary development.

The meeting discussed the importance of ensuring that policy instruments have an impact on congestion.

Consensus Decision

By consensus, the MPIC agreed to continue to analyze an “Energy Tax” (previously referred to as a “Fuel Tax”) as a baseline case rather than a solution, as it has no direct impact on congestion.

Consensus Decision

By consensus, the MPIC agreed to the following policy instrument categories:

- *Category One (Baseline case only):*
 - *Energy Tax / Fuel Tax*
- *Category Two (Recommended for Preliminary Scenario Development):*
 - *System of point charges*
 - *Cordon charges*
 - *Road user charges:*
 - *Distance/time-based*
 - *Distance-only (may possibly be switched to Category Three)*
 - *Pricing (public and private parking)*

- *Category Three (the Pathway or Portfolio List):*
 - *Corridor charges (mandatory)*
 - *Distance-only road user charge (may possibly be switched to Category Two)*
 - *Vehicle levy*
- *Category Four (Set Aside for this Initiative):*
 - *Isolated point charges*
 - *Corridor charges (voluntary)*
 - *Distance-based vehicle insurance*
 - *Parking levies.*

Consensus Decision

By consensus, the MPIC agreed to postpone discussion of the following “parking lot” items to a future MPIC meeting:

- *Ride sharing (e.g. Uber) as a means for alternative transportation*
- *Impacts of cordon charges on commercial traffic*
- *Bicycles and bike lanes*
- *Vehicle levies*
- *Taxation with provincial government involvement*
- *Single-fare public transit implications (during future discussions on “fairness” and “implementation”, following completion of the pending fare review).*

8. Draft Scenario Evaluation Framework

Lindsay Neufeld, Mobility Pricing Independent Commission, reviewed the presentation titled “Draft Scenario Evaluation Framework”, referred to the report titled “Proposed Evaluation Framework – Draft for Discussion and Input”, and offered comments on potential evaluation criteria.

During discussion on the suggested evaluation criteria, comments were offered on:

- *Different users’ interpretations of “affordability” and “safety”*
- *Users’ ability to make their own determinations on whether an approach is “consistent” or “equitable”.*

Consensus Decision

By consensus, the MPIC agreed that the “Evaluation Criteria” considered by MPIC at its November 27, 2017 MPIC meeting, be amended as follows:

- *Insert “Public Safety” in the “Other Evaluation Criteria” section, under the subsection “Environment and Health”;*
- *Select broader wording to replace “Public Support” in the “Other Evaluation Criteria” section (i.e. “Public Understanding” or “Public Acceptance”); and*
- *Append “(geographic)” to “Availability of sufficient transportation choices” in the “Fairness” section of the evaluation criteria.*

Consensus Decision

By consensus, the MPIC directed staff to:

- *Develop scenarios for up to five “archetypal users”, which citizens could relate to (e.g. citizens with mobility issues, commercial users (small businesses and trucking companies), commuters, etc.); and*
- *Then apply each of the evaluation criteria, to each of the archetypal users, to better understand their varying perspectives (e.g. consider how “Equitable distribution of user costs and benefits” would apply to each of the archetypal users; include examples where possible).*

9. Next Steps

Mr. Firth explained that during the next few months, options for each of the categories identified would be further refined, before being entered into a transportation model. He confirmed that prior to the January 2018 meeting, an email discussion could facilitate any required conversations.

10. Conclusion

The November 27, 2017 Meeting of the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission concluded at 4:45 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Allan Seckel, Chair

Carrie Peacock, Recording Secretary
Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

LIST OF INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were presented for information at the meeting:

1. Agenda for the November 27, 2017 Metro Vancouver Mobility Pricing Independent Commission
2. Draft Minutes of the September 6, 2017 Mobility Pricing Independent Commission Meeting
3. Printed copy of the presentation on the “It’s Time” Regional and Local Engagement Workshops
4. Report titled “Road Usage Charging Policy Instruments for Motor Vehicles, Coarse-level Evaluation”
5. Report titled “Proposed Evaluation Framework – Draft for Discussion and Input”