

CITY NEWS

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Photo credit: Julian Giordano

Penticton moves towards a 'complete transportation approach'

The City has started on the path towards a transportation system that supports all ages, abilities, and modes of transportation while helping meet environmental objectives and using infrastructure wisely. Work is getting underway on the 2020 Transportation Master Plan which will identify all of the projects needed in the next 5, 10, 15 and 25 years to move Penticton towards the vision for a 'complete transportation approach' described in the 2019 Official Community Plan.

"Through the creation of the Official Community Plan, residents told us they want to see Penticton balance support for the car with more emphasis on active modes of transportation and transit because of the significant social, environmental, economic and health benefits," said City Engineer Ian Chapman. "The Transportation Master Plan will identify what we need to do to achieve this balance and make all of our transportation systems safe, enjoyable, convenient



and practical."

Residents were invited to participate in the plan's development beginning with the identification of problem intersections and routes.

"With this plan, we can gradually make it safer and easier for people who walk, bike, bus, and drive in Penticton," says Mayor John Vassilaki. "This will mean some adjustments to how we are used to getting around. We encourage residents to be open to the changes that come with this direction. It is the right thing to do for the health

of our citizens and our environment today and for the future."

The City collected input from August 6 until August 30, 2020. The information gathered will be used to identify and prioritize the projects in the Transportation Master Plan. Residents will have the opportunity to view the results and recommendations this fall. Anyone interested in learning more about the City's vision for a complete transportation approach can watch a video on the City's Facebook page and at shapeyourcitypenticton.ca.

Council updates priorities for 2020-2022

In response to changes brought about by COVID-19, Penticton City Council has revised its strategic priorities for the period of 2020 through 2022.



Approved by Council during their July 21 meeting, two of the three original 2019-2021 priorities – Asset and Amenity Management and Community Safety – remain unchanged while the third priority, Community Design, was replaced by Community Vitality.

Key actions driving community vitality include: supporting economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and attracting and promoting sustainable growth and development.

The process to reset Council's priorities began in May and involved input from Council and City managers, as well as feedback gathered during the April 2020 Resident and Business Impact Surveys.

"Council initially planned to undertake a second strategic planning process in 2021, but as a result of COVID-19, that timeline was quickly moved forward," said Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki. "With a revised set of priorities now in place, residents can rest reassured the City's resources, budget and activities are aligned with the current situation we find ourselves in."

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Penticton Community Centre welcomes patrons back

After being closed since mid-March, the Penticton Community Centre began the first stages of its reopening on August 13, 2020.

“We have thoroughly evaluated this well used facility and determined how we can offer services again through a gradual, phased approach,” says Director of Recreation & Facilities, Bregje Kozak. “The health and safety of our guests and staff is our number one priority, and there has been a tremendous amount of staff time and planning to ensure a safe reopening.”

All recreation users will be required to book a timeslot prior to visiting the facility through a new reservation system. Visitors can expect limited options to begin with, such as booking sessions for the Pool and Fitness Room only, with more options becoming available over time.

“This facility is accustomed to seeing over 300,000 visitors each year utilizing different aspects of the Community Centre. In order to feel certain in offering other services, we need to ensure that we are confident



at each stage of our reopening before moving on to the next phase.”

Residents can learn more about these changes and check for regular updates by visiting the Return to Recreation webpage at www.penticton.ca/restartrec.

Flood prevention work underway along Penticton Creek

Work intended to prevent future flooding along Penticton Creek has been underway since the end of July with an estimated completion for early September.

Located near Penticton Avenue and McPherson Place, the work will replace deteriorating concrete weir structures with more natural and fish friendly rock riffles. Crews are scheduled to start at 7 a.m., Monday to Sunday, and will remain on site until the project’s completion.

Please note: the creek side walking path will be diverted around the active work areas and there will be intermittent single lane alternating traffic arrangements on Penticton Avenue. Residents are advised to stay clear of heavy equipment and follow all signage.

“We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this project might cause,” said the City’s Engineer, Ian Chapman.



Council Highlights

Council highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council meetings. To view the official meeting minutes and other council related information, visit penticton.ca/council.

2021-2025 Financial Plan & Business Plan Key Dates

Jim Bauer, Chief Financial Officer provided Council with a presentation on the 2021-2025 financial plan which included key dates of the upcoming budget process.

RCMP Quarterly Update

Superintendent Brian Hunter provided Council with crime statistics for the second quarter (April –June 2020) for Penticton. Council received into the record the report dated July 21, 2020 titled “RCMP Quarterly Update”.

Fees & Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 2020-31

Council adopted “Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 2020-31”, a bylaw that charges a flat fee for all single reservation admissions for the Fitness Room (\$7) and Aquatic Centre (\$6.75).

Responsible Liquor Consumption in Public Places (Skaha Park)

Council gave first, second and third reading as amended to “Liquor Consumption (Skaha Park) Bylaw No. 2020-28”. A Special meeting of Council was held on July 23, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. to adopt Bylaw No. 2020-28.