

Briefing Note: Report on accessible and affordable transportation in the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District

Thank you for your participation and interest in the transportation consultation for the Alberni Clayoquot Region!

We wanted to take a minute of your time to acknowledge your valuable participation in this process and provide an update. We think it is especially important to let you know where the information went to, we have included the full report as well. We want to invite you to stay engaged and there are some opportunities coming up to do just that!

Background

We know that transportation in our region presents a diverse array of challenges and there are no quick fixes. From boat travel to bus routes, the way in which we access basic services has a large impact on our individual and community health as well as our health system. To be more effective together, the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network spearheaded a study to start the conversation about what we can do to improve access in our region and improve health equity. The information in the study was gathered through:

- 31 interviews with key community stakeholders
- Literature review of previous studies and conversations which you may have been a part of...
- 4 community engagement sessions – Bamfield, Port Alberni, Tofino and Ucluelet
- 2 round table discussions

From this information 4 themes emerged:

- There is lack of a coordinated approach in transportation networks, schedules and options
- Transportation is tied to mental and physical health and regional prosperity
- Time is as much a factor as money when it comes to affordability. Many people in the region cannot travel to and from an appointment in one day
- Stakeholders and community members are eager for solutions.

Recommendations

A series of 11 broad recommendations emerged from the study which can be distilled into 4 main themes.

- Encourage greater public engagement – establish a regional working group to identify and take action
- Improve coordination of services – central website, innovative health outreach programs, etc.
- Investigate medical travel options – wheels for wellness and community shuttles
- Enhance transportation corridors – highways, active transport options, recognizing marine corridors as significant transportation contributors

What's Next?

We invite you to read through the study, send us your ideas, comments and get involved.

Get in touch with the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network Coordinator – achn@acrd.bc.ca. We are happy to receive invitations to present the report to local leadership, questions or interest in the Transportation Action Table which will evaluate next steps in moving recommendations forward this spring!