

Press Announcement: For Immediate Release

March 17, 2008

BSD is please to inform the public that tonight the Bathurst City Council will be adopting the first of several Sustainable Transportation Action Plan (STAP) recommendations. Many of the adopted recommendations as well as the ones that are being worked on as initiatives will help to move our City towards greater sustainability and increased capacity and will help us to have additional sustainable and active transportation options, services and infrastructure in our City.

*“A very important step the City has just taken is the joining of the City as a member of the Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative (ACSI). BSD has been a founding partner of ACSI for the past year and has been working with the City to introduce them through Eco Coaching, Environmental Planning and the work of the STAP Project to the principles of the Natural Step and to encourage them to adopt the ACSI Charter. Also in addition the City had adopted a **Sustainability Vision for 2020**. A vision statement is a goal for the future, it becomes something that we consider and strive for in our daily decisions and planning. We identify a year in the future when we hope to be able to say that we have successfully reached our sustainability goals as outlined in our vision statement. (See attached Vision 2020 Statement at the end of this document). The ACSI members use the Natural Step Framework as a mean of understanding, common language and decision making as we work towards achieving sustainability in our communities and businesses by adopting a systems approach to decision making, operations and management of our natural resources and community wellness. It includes four basic principles that we consider and strive to achieve in our decision making:*

Eliminating our Contribution to:

- a) Progressive buildup in concentration of waste derived from the Earth’s Crust (fossil fuels, minerals)*
- b) Progressive buildup of materials produced by society (chemical substances, PCB’s, Pesticides, waste)*
- c) Ongoing physical degradation of nature (depletion/ destruction of water, forests, habitat, air)*
- d) Undermining other people’s ability to meet their needs (increasing poverty, inequity, depleting life support systems)*

Several other communities and businesses across Atlantic Canada as have joined ACSI and developed a Vision Statement and across the country and the world there are many Municipalities and businesses who are now all using the Natural Step Framework to reach their sustainability goals. In New Brunswick the City of St. John and Bathurst Sustainable Development (BSD) are founding partners of the Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative (ACSI). We are pleased to announce that on March 17, 2008, the City of Bathurst joined BSD and became a member of ACSI, adopted a Sustainability Vision for 2020 and made a commitment to work towards the vision goals by using the Natural Step. The documents will be posted on the City and BSD website shortly but are also available by email by contacting either BSD or the City”.

Intended for Adoption on March 31, is a Green Procurement Policy. More details and the list of recommendation is below and also attached. The documents will be posted on the City and BSD website shortly but are also available by email by contacting either BSD or the City”. For further information contact; Brenda Kelley, Bathurst Sustainable Development (506) 548-2106 or by email at: rosewood@nbnet.nb.ca For further information contact; Brenda Kelley, Bathurst Sustainable Development (506) 548-2106 or by email at: rosewood@nbnet.nb.ca

Adopted or Approved by Council, March 2008

Strategic Planning Timetable and Recommendations from the STAP Committee

The STAP Committee recommends to City Council that they agree to adopt by resolution and or formal approval the following items at the March 17 Council meeting:

- 1) That Council adopts by Resolution the Atlantic Canada Sustainability Initiative (ACSI) Charter and becomes a member of ACSI.
- 2) That Council adopts and approves the Vision 2020 Statement and Goals on Sustainability as presented by the STAP Committee. (Attached)
- 3) That Council adopts the amendment to the City purchasing policy to make it a Green Procurement Policy as presented by the STAP Committee. (Attached)
- 4) That Council agrees that the STAP Committee can request an information sharing meeting with the NB DOT, the City DOT and the STAP Committee to discuss and gather information from DOT on the topics of the potential for installing multi-modal lanes on bridges, roads and provincial designated highways in our City, what process and permissions are required to install Share the Road signs along City and Provincial Highways, to discuss with DOT the potential and process for reorganizing traffic flow on St. Peter Avenue and Miramichi Avenue so as to allow enough space for the installation of one two-directional/ multi-modal designated lane with active transportation signage from Beresford limit, along St. Peter Ave. to Harborview Blvd and potentially in the future along main Street to Miramichi Avenue during upgrades to these streets.
- 5) That Council agrees to encourage active transportation by allowing BSD to install up to four formal bicycle parking areas on City owned land.
- 6) Requests that Water conservation options be encouraged to be developed and considered as an amendment to the By-law respecting Water and Sewer Services and charges in the City of Bathurst.

The following additional STAP recommendations have been initiated by directives given to the respective Municipal Departments to implement them before the end of 2008, or on a phased in approach over the next two years, or to the respective committee for inclusion and action or for completion and addition to the upcoming capital budget which will be adopted in December 2008 for the 2009 fiscal year.

- 1) That Council prioritize in the 2009 capital budget, the extension of the sidewalk in the school zone from the corner of King Avenue up to the driveway of the Terry Fox School and up over the blind hill along Basin Road.

- 2) That Council requests the Traffic Committee and City Operations Department to install an Audible Pedestrian Signal at the following location to be completed in the summer of

2008 during the planned upgrade: **St. Peter/St. Anne**: because this is a T-intersection and there is no parallel traffic to determine when it's safe to cross.

- 3) Municipal Fleet Anti- Idling Policy- Adopted in November 2007.
- 4) That Parks and Recreation be requested to increase the number of resting benches along city streets to encourage and assist our citizens to increase their participation in walking and active transportation.
- 5) That the City will install a crosswalk and signage in front of City Hall on St. George Street which will be completed by October 2008.

6) **Harborview Boulevard**

To consider to incorporate, as part of the Waterfront Development Project, reorganizing traffic flow on Harborview Boulevard to two lanes instead of four and use the decommissioned two lanes on the North Side of the street to widen and designate the existing narrow walking trail beside the street to allow it to become a formal two-directional/ multi-modal lane with active transportation signage and ensure it links with St. Peter Avenue, King Avenue and Main Street.

- 7) Pedestrian Initiative: That BSD and CNIB will work with local malls and box stores to recommend and find a way to install or identify a location on their properties where a pedestrian designated crosswalk or sidewalk can be added to the property to allow safe access for pedestrians from the St. Peter Avenue sidewalk to the closest main entrance door of the shopping mall or business building.

The following STAP Recommendations will be presented again in further detail by the STAP Committee to the new City Council after the May 2008 Municipal election in our City.

- 1) That Council agrees in principle to consider urban transit as part of the upcoming negotiations for funding under the Gas Tax Fund.
- 2) Ensure that our City residents have access to sustainable transportation options by implementing public transit bus service, using three 15-24 passenger transit buses, and by accepting a portion of the offered gas tax revenues for capital purchasing of buses and shelters and to start the service before 2010.
- 3) That the City of Bathurst provide a \$150,000 Municipal subsidy annually to help support operating costs of a public transit bus service.

- 4) That the City implement a Sheltering Project by installing bus shelters along City streets and begin to offer advertising space for major corporations, government agencies and other organizations and use this revenue to support operating costs of the small transit bus service.
- 5) That the City increases the fees for motorized vehicle parking in City-owned parking lots and direct this revenue to support public transit bus services in our City. (\$60,000 annually for transit operations)
- 6) That Council requests the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) to consider the principles of sustainable conservation design in future development.
- 7) That Council request the Planning Advisory Committee to consider that all new subdivisions are required to have at least one sidewalk and one multi-modal lane along one side of the sub division streets and that all commercial, institutional and industrial buildings are required to have a designated pedestrian access lane, crosswalk or sidewalk from the street to one main door of the building.
- 8) That Council requests the Traffic Committee to consider the installation of Audible Pedestrian Signals at the following additional locations:
 - a) **Main/Douglas:** because this is an X-shape intersection and the traffic is very difficult to analyze
 - b) **King/Main:** because the traffic pattern is not regular. Many cars coming from King Avenue are turning on Main St. and do not create a parallel traffic.
 - c) **Entrance to the Bathurst Mall from St. Peter:** because this is a T-intersection and lack of parallel traffic to determine when it's safe to cross St. Peter Avenue.
 - d) **Entrance to Mall (Superstore), Laurier across St. Peter:** because there is low traffic on Laurier and less parallel traffic to determine when it's safe to cross St. Peter.
- 9) That the Planning Committee enact a requirement that any new residential or commercial development must not develop over and must protect and respect existing trails including NB Trails that may cross over the developer's land.
- 10) Complete the sidewalk along St. Anne Street or install one two-directional/ multi-modal designated lane with active transportation signage along one side of street for biking, skateboarding and rollerblading, walking and for use by motorized wheelchairs.
- 11) The BSD and the City apply for funding to update the Transportation Master Plan of the City and incorporate the STAP recommendations into the plan.

ACSI Vision Statement 2020 follows (below)

Green Procurement Policy follows (below)

Adopted by Council, March 17, 2008

ACSI Vision 2020 goals for the City of Bathurst

Purpose: A vision statement is a goal for the future, it becomes something that we consider and strive for in our daily decisions and planning. We identify a year in the future when we hope to be able to say that we have successfully reached our sustainability goals as outlined in our vision statement.

Vision Statement on Sustainability for the City of Bathurst

Bathurst is a vibrant and versatile City. It is a City rich in natural, built and cultural heritage. Its citizens, businesses, institutions and government value and protect our natural environment, economic vitality, social equity, lifelong learning, cultural diversity and heritage. Everyone accepts responsibility for making decisions that lead to a healthy, equitable and sustainable future.

The City of Bathurst recognizes that sustainable development requires a constant and equitable balance of environmental, social, cultural and economic factors in all decision making. The City of Bathurst defines sustainable development as development that strives to balance these factors in order to provide the highest possible quality of life for all its citizens. We will strive to improve the total quality of life both now and in the future, in a way that maintains and enhances the ecological processes on which life depends.

Guided by principles of sustainability, we will work towards achieving the following objectives by the year 2020:

- An inclusive community based on social equity and guided by citizen engagement through ongoing dialogue and public consultation;
- A community that fosters and supports affordable and flexible housing, beautiful communities, high quality standards in urban design, a healthy business sector; diverse educational opportunities and a creative and adaptive economy;
- A community whose energy needs are reduced through energy efficiency and renewable resources;
- A community where our food and material needs are produced locally, wherever possible;
- A community in which the natural environment is respected and protected as our most valuable asset, with a diversity of parks, open spaces, recreational facilities and events;
- A community where pollution is reduced, demand on finite natural resources decreased and where solid waste production is minimized and increasingly recycled;
- A community with sustainable and active transportation networks where people have alternative modes of transportation options for their mobility within the community or their links to the larger world.

To be adopted by Council, March 31, 2008

STAP Phase 1: Green Procurement Policy

The following principles and statements will be added to the current City of Bathurst Purchasing Policy:

- 1) The City of Bathurst will employ Municipal Purchasing activities that demonstrate our commitment to moving Bathurst towards our sustainability goals.*
- 2) The policy will align our purchasing decisions with our vision and commitment to Enriching Community Life, Protecting the Environment, Ensuring Economic Viability and partnering for Success.*
- 3) To leverage purchasing practices to make positive contributions to social and environmental systems. As such, it is the intent of this policy to align purchasing activities of the City of Bathurst with Municipal Commitments to Sustainability as defined by the Natural Step Framework. listed below.*
- 4) *Eliminating our Contribution to:***
 - a) Progressive buildup in concentration of waste derived from the Earth's Crust*
 - b) Progressive buildup of materials produced by society*
 - c) Ongoing physical degradation of nature*
 - d) Undermining other people's ability to meet their needs*
- 5) To communicate the City's Commitment to sustainability to all suppliers and contractors as a means of encouraging upstream improvements in product development and availability.*
- 6) To contribute to increased community wide capacity by sharing purchasing guidelines and product evaluation with the public.*
- 7) The City of Bathurst will use a Carbon off set tool and guideline to reflect the community's commitment to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and undertake unique policy approaches.*