

---

**Subject:**

FW: Strategic Priorities

-----Original Message-----

From: Wanda Thompson [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, May 6, 2023 6:09 PM

To: Wells, Bob <[mayor@courtenay.ca](mailto:mayor@courtenay.ca)>; Morin, Wendy <[wmorin@courtenay.ca](mailto:wmorin@courtenay.ca)>; Cole-Hamilton, Will <[wcole-hamilton@courtenay.ca](mailto:wcole-hamilton@courtenay.ca)>; Jolicoeur, Evan <[ejolicoeur@courtenay.ca](mailto:ejolicoeur@courtenay.ca)>; Hillian, Doug <[dhillian@courtenay.ca](mailto:dhillian@courtenay.ca)>; McCollum, Melanie <[mmccollum@courtenay.ca](mailto:mmccollum@courtenay.ca)>

Subject: Strategic Priorities

Hello,

I would like to share my thoughts on your strategic priorities.

Overall, solid and comprehensive. I am pleased to see the focus on social issues and wellbeing and on reconciliation.

1. Very pleased to see transportation as priority number one, with a focus on active transportation. I am very supportive of the 6th St. Bridge, and hope the City gets the grants it has applied for to make this happen. As a resident of East Courtenay, I would like to see some serious attention given to the entire area from Ryan and Back Rd. to Headquarters/19A to Comox Rd/5th St. Bridge. This entire area is a pedestrian nightmare, and not very safe for cycling either. It also links the City to Vanier High School and the fairgrounds/summer market. It is really unacceptable that there isn't a safe way for students and pedestrians to get there. I cringe every time I see children/people walking along the Headquarters shoulder while traffic speeds by. The Courtenay transportation plan gives no specific details on this either.

As the 6th St East/Tunner Dr. extension and 6th St Bridge move forward, I truly hope that more comprehensive safer and connected routes are considered for this area. Because at the moment, this whole area leaves East Courtenay cut off from any safe active transport routes to downtown and the market.

2. RCMP - better data. 100 Yes. As I noted in previous correspondence, the quarterly reports provided by Inspector Kurvers are verging on useless. There is no information about how data is collected, no analysis of the data and no insight as to the way forward, trends, gap analysis. More comprehensive reports that explain how data is collected, the criteria for the data points, and much deeper analysis are necessary for Council, as policy makers, to understand what is happening in the community on the public safety front. This information is critical for you to understand whether by-law changes are needed, whether and where more officers may be needed, to justify increases in policing budgets etc. To be clear, this is not interfering in police operations. This is so you as a Council can make good policy and ensure that the City's and the police priorities are aligned.

3. Communications- I see mention of a communications strategy, which is good. This will help establish a framework for communications, but it isn't communications. I understand that in a small city, there isn't budget for a broad comms function. What I would suggest is:

Briefing notes for council always include a 'Communications' section, where the lead departmental manager outlines the public communications issues/opportunities/methods. Second, send your senior managers on a communications course, so that they have a better understanding of the importance of communicating with the public and media, and can build capacity across the bureaucracy.

4. There are a lot of priorities in your plan. Every senior manager at the City should have an annual

performance agreement that outlines how they will deliver on these strategic priorities.

I am really glad to live in Courtenay. I appreciate our parks and trails every day and the sense of community. I love our downtown and our market.

Thanks for all your good work,

Wanda Thompson