



STAFF REPORT

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee
From: Elias Ross, Environmental Service Coordinator

Date: 2025-04-10

Subject: **Regional Zero-Emissions Mobility Strategy**

Reviewed by: Lance Lilley, Manager of Environmental Services
David Urban, Deputy Director of Regional Services
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RECOMMENDATION

This report is being brought forward for the Board's information and there is no staff recommendation.

BACKGROUND

Emissions from the transportation sector are responsible for nearly 25% of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), over 85% of Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), and over 50% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the region. Pollution produced locally is constrained in our sensitive airshed and impacts regional air quality. Identifying opportunities to reduce air emissions is a key strategy within the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD)'s Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and the recently completed Fraser Valley Future 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS).

DISCUSSION

To support the objectives outlined in the AQMP and the RGS, FVRD staff are collaborating with the City of Abbotsford and the City of Chilliwack to develop a Zero-Emission Mobility (ZEM) Strategy which includes the evaluation of electric vehicle infrastructure and other transportation changes that will **reduce the region's emissions**. The purpose of this strategy is to identify the gaps, barriers, and opportunities to reduce traffic-related emissions and to assess these emissions at a regional level, considering both individual communities and the connections between them. The ZEM Strategy will encourage the uptake of zero or low-emission vehicles, with a primary focus on passenger Electric Vehicles (EVs). **Consolidating and analyzing data on the ZEM sector in the Fraser Valley hasn't been** completed to-date and will support the advancement and adoption of ZEM throughout the region.

As the two largest population centres in the region, Abbotsford and Chilliwack have the largest number of vehicles, both within their boundaries and passing through. By helping to understand and address

emissions in these key areas, the strategy aims to enhance air quality and reduce overall regional emissions. For instance, air flow patterns typically distribute pollutants from the western portion of the region to the east, such as Hope, where they tend to concentrate.

While Abbotsford and Chilliwack will receive targeted attention, the FVRD is actively involved in ensuring the strategy takes a comprehensive, region-wide approach and will benefit all communities within the FVRD. Given the interconnected nature of communities throughout the region, it is essential to develop strategies that address transportation emissions holistically. For example, the strategy will include a region-wide EV charging gap analysis and options for overcoming barriers related to charging.

Procurement for the project is expected to begin this spring with the final Strategy expected by the end of 2025. The City of Abbotsford is leading the procurement process and will be the lead on the contract with the consultant.

COST

BC Hydro has provided grant funding for this project for up to 50% of project costs, up to \$75,000. The remaining 50% of project costs will be split equally between the City of Abbotsford, the City of Chilliwack, and the FVRD. The maximum contribution from the FVRD will be \$25,000, which will come from allocated funding in the 401 (Air Quality) 2025 budget. This will be invoiced by the City of Abbotsford to the FVRD.

CONCLUSION

FVRD staff are collaborating with Abbotsford and Chilliwack staff to develop a zero-emissions mobility plan for the region. The plan aims to identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities in zero emission mobility to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.