

Municipal Government Participation in the Transport Canada Project on Methodologies for Making Decisions about Sustainable Transport Practices

**Barry Wellar, Distinguished Research Fellow
Transport 2000 Canada
Principal, Wellar Consulting Inc.**

As discussed in research and interim reports which are available online (<http://www.wellar.ca/wellarconsulting/>), the research design of this project investigates the methodologies, methods, and techniques behind decisions to identify, adopt, and implement sustainable transport practices. In response to inquiries about the status of the survey part of the project, this note briefly outlines the request for information that has been sent to a selection of municipal governments.

A total of 54 municipal governments were invited to participate in the Transport Canada project, Methodologies for Identifying and Ranking Sustainable Transport Practices in Urban Regions. They are listed below in Table 1.

Table 1. Municipalities Invited to Participate in the Survey

<p>Newfoundland & Labrador St. John's</p> <p>Nova Scotia Halifax RM</p> <p>Prince Edward Island Charlottetown</p> <p>New Brunswick Moncton</p> <p>Québec Gatineau Laval Lévis Longueuil Montréal Quebec City Saguenay Sherbrooke Trois-Rivières</p> <p>Ontario Barrie Brampton Cambridge</p>	<p>Durham Region Guelph</p> <p>Halton Region Hamilton Kingston Kitchener London Mississauga Niagara Region North Bay Oakville Ottawa Peel Region Peterborough St. Catharine's Sault Ste. Marie Sudbury Thunder Bay Toronto Waterloo City Waterloo Region Windsor York Region</p>	<p>Manitoba Winnipeg</p> <p>Saskatchewan Regina Saskatoon</p> <p>Alberta Calgary Edmonton Lethbridge</p> <p>British Columbia Burnaby GVRD Kamloops Kelowna New Westminster Surrey Vancouver Victoria</p> <p>Yukon Territory Whitehorse</p>
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By way of a brief note of context, readers will be aware that when it comes to using methodologies, methods, and techniques in most kinds of non-trivial decision-making situations, there are three basic categories to which these decision support instruments tend to be assigned:

- Methodologies, methods, and techniques that *are used*.
- Methodologies, methods, and techniques that *could be used*.
- Methodologies, methods, and techniques that *should be used*.

The objective of the municipal government component is to learn about the methodologies, methods, and techniques that are used in making decisions about identifying, adopting, and implementing sustainable transport practices.

Details about the anticipated contribution of municipal governments to project findings are in reports posted at: <http://www.wellar.ca/wellarconsulting/> .

Readers who wish to know about the survey questions can find them in Interim Report 3, ***Survey of Municipal Governments about Methodologies, Methods, and Techniques Used to Make Sustainable Transport Decisions.***

At this point in time (end of 2008) I am preparing the design of the final report, and waiting for responses to the questions asked in the survey. The due date for receiving replies to be included in the final report is January 15 (the survey materials were sent out in October, 2008).

It is quite possible, and perhaps likely that the final report may not be completed until mid-February or later, depending upon the number of responses, the level of detail contained in the survey responses, and whether it will be necessary to seek clarifications, elaborations, etc. Due to the uncertainty about when the final report will be available, readers with an interest in the response by a particular municipal government may want to contact the organization directly.

I note in this regard that the project and the survey are in the public domain, so the public has access to all published materials. Further, it is in the interests of good governance if a way can be found whereby citizens, businesses, advocacy groups, and other parties are not obliged to wait until I have organized the survey responses, completed the analysis and interpretation tasks, and then written and posted the final report.

It is my suggestion, therefore, that interested readers contact a municipality directly about the survey response, as I do not have the mandate to provide such a service, and I will not be able to hasten completion of the final report, nor to selectively provide materials that deal with particular municipalities.

In the cases of municipalities that post information requests and responses and make them available online, an email address, telephone number, or other means of contacting the responsible official will most likely be provided. If the response has not yet been posted, a message to the designated respondent could yield information about the survey response schedule.

Where online information is not available, readers may wish to contact the senior administrator, such as the chief administrative officer, city clerk, city manager, director-general, etc., for the “coordinates” of the survey respondent.

In general, the initial invitation sent to mayor and council requesting participation was directed to the city clerk or other senior administrator, because the role of this office includes expediting the municipality’s flow of paper and/or digital communications. It follows, therefore, that the senior administrator (often the city clerk) is an appropriate person to contact to learn about the disposition and assignment of the survey participation request.