

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Transit Services Committee held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on June 22, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Director Morrison, Chair
Directors Cossey, Duncan (1:38 p.m.), Giles (1:40 p.m.),
Harrison, Iannidinardo, Kent, Kuhn, McGonigle

ABSENT: Directors Haywood and Seymour

ALSO

PRESENT: Warren Jones, CAO, CVRD
Jim Wakeham, Manager, Facilities, Transit & Fleet
Brian Dennison, P. Eng., General Manager, E & E
Myrna Moore, BC Transit
Joanne Bath, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 23, 2011 regular Transit Services Committee meeting be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

BA1

Staff advised that the delegation asked to present the recommendations from the City of Duncan Age-friendly Seniors Safety Report was not able to attend this meeting, but will be asked again for the meeting of August 3, 2011.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1

Correspondence was received from Larry Miller, requesting transit for the Special Woodstock Festival on August 21, 2011.

It was moved and seconded that the request to provide bus service similar to last year for the 2011 Special Woodstock Festival in the Cowichan Valley be granted, and that the approximate direct cost of \$540 be waived.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

R1

A report from BC Transit providing a Commuter Service Review was reviewed.

Mr. Wakeham discussed the current challenge faced as a result of a successful increase in commuter ridership of 118% in the last 2 years. The issue is mainly regarding the high demand for the 3:45 pm #66 return bus from Victoria to Duncan, which for approximately 6 months has a higher demand than capacity. In addition, due to the accident on the Malahat in April 2010, the newer Nova bus has been replaced by a older style MCI bus to assist with the larger ridership demands. The use of the older bus has resulted in more passengers being serviced but the CVRD has also received some complaints regarding its comfort level. It has been determined it will take another 8-9 months to be repaired.

In addition complaints have also been received from some commuters who are not able to get on the 3:45pm bus leaving Victoria, as the bus is full and they do not want to wait 30 minutes for the next available bus.

The report also includes the responses and a summary of the responses to a recent commuter survey. The report provides 4 options and a recommendation from BC Transit to be considered.

Mr. Wakeham advised that there is a further challenge at this time as the 2 park and rides are at full capacity.

Director Giles asked whether there was an opportunity for regular commuters to bump one-time only passengers.

Mr. Wakeham advised that the reservation system was discontinued in July 2009 as buses were only full to approximately 50% of capacity and BC Transit did not support that system as it is public transit and difficult to be exclusive.

It was moved and seconded that it be recommended that the Board support BC Transit's recommendation to modify/improve the commuter schedule to better meet the documented demand for earlier return p.m. trips to Duncan; and further that a letter be written to the Province regarding the purchase of an additional bus and the required infrastructure (ie Park N rides) for the Cowichan Valley Commuter Service.

MOTION CARRIED

It was noted that before this recommendation can be put in place, BC Transit will survey the passengers again in order to confirm that the new proposed schedule benefits the majority of customers.

R2

A report was reviewed regarding the BC Transit Improvement Program and an accompanying feedback form.

Mr Wakeham advised that BC Transit is proposing to fundamentally change the method of how transit service expansion hours are allocated to local governments. Traditionally the expansion funding

allocation process was not well defined and was largely based on a system size rather than performance. The new proposal is based on key performance indicators.

It was moved and seconded that the feedback request form regarding BC Transit's Improvement Program be forwarded to committee members, Volunteer Cowichan, First Canada and Cowichan Lake Community Services for comment, and further that the comments be summarized and provided to BC Transit.

MOTION CARRIED

R3 BC Transit provided a report regarding the Cowichan Valley Transit Future Update.

FOR INFORMATION

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that a letter be sent to the Province requesting that monies collected from the fuel surcharge increase effective July 1, 2011, be provided to Local Governments towards alternate transportation choices.

MOTION CARRIED

NB2 Director Iannidinaro asked if garbage cans are going to be provided at all the new bus stop locations.

Mr. Wakeham responded that each location is reviewed and not all locations will receive garbage containers. Most main stops have garbage containers in place with a contractor to service them. He noted that staff are monitoring the ones in place and working through some issues.

ADJOURNMENT It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____