

Meeting notes of the Comox Valley Transit Management Advisory Committee held on February 17, 2021 via Zoom, commencing at 10:05 am.

## **PRESENT:**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| M. Moore, Senior Regional Transit Manager                | BC Transit            |
| A. McMullen, Transportation Planner                      | BC Transit            |
| J. Wadsworth, project Development Manager                | BC Transit            |
| R. Hart,   | BC Transit            |
| R. Crisfield, Manager of Operations                      | Village of Cumberland |
| E. Amador, Transit Planner                               | BC Transit            |
| D. Richards, General Manager                             | PWT                   |
| M. Zbarsky, Manager of Transit and Sustainability        | CVRD                  |
| S. Speed, Branch Assistant – Executive Management Branch | CVRD                  |

## **ITEMS**

### **BC Transit Corporate Update**

BC Transit staff explained that all 2020 expansions were deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic and their status will be confirmed in the upcoming provincial budget. The Provincial Government budget will be announced on April 20, 2021 which is later than usual.

The Federal Government made an announcement a new Permanent Transit Fund for transit infrastructure will be available starting in 2026. This will also provide dedicated planning funding to accelerate future projects.

BC Transit staff explained they are hoping to have completed and distributed the 2021/22 Annual Operating Agreements towards the end of March.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Service Planning**

Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) staff explained they have met with communications staff with the CVRD and also with staff from the City of Courtenay (City). The City has hired a consultant to start a communications plan for their traffic management which will be shared with the CVRD and BC Transit who will need to supplement transit details in communications to residents.

Staff from the CVRD and PWT expressed concerns about scheduling and the timeliness of information coming forward from the City. BC Transit staff explained if the 3,000 expansion hours and priority bus lane are going ahead as planned, this will allow service levels to be maintained.

### **Expansion Update**

CVRD staff explained the board approved the 3,000 and 600 hours expansion in January and there is a meeting set with K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) to discuss the 600 hours for service along Back Road. Both are subject to provincial share of funding which will be known later in April. The 3,000 hours for this year's bridge project has been confirmed.

### **Back Road Service Planning**

BC Transit staff explained there are not a lot of service options with the 600 hours expansion and it would either provide more trips on fewer days or fewer trips on more days. CVRD and BC Transit will work with KFN on options.

### **Annual Performance Summary**

BC Transit staff reviewed the Annual Performance Summary and noted overall performance in 2019/2020 was holding the same or improved as previous years.

### **2021-2025 Financial Plan – Regional Transit**

The financial plan was presented to the Committee of the Whole last week and was given preliminary approval. Final approval will be in March.

### **Hornby/Denman Islands Community Bus**

CVRD staff explained there is more money budgeted to provide bus service on Denman and Hornby Islands. The community bus on Hornby Island will likely continue to be run by a non-profit organization and service on Denman Island will go out to public tender.

It was requested that BC Transit consider options for service to the Islands as part of the upcoming Transit Future Action Plan.

### **Transit Infrastructure Study**

BC Transit staff reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the process of the Transit Infrastructure Study and confirmed they are still working with Urban Systems on this project. Urban Systems will organize a working group session tentatively for later in February or early March and a final report by end of March which can be presented to board and councils.

### **Transit Maintenance and Operations Facility Study**

BC Transit staff provided an outline of the upcoming Transit Operations Facility Study and explained there is funding available in the Annual Operations Agreement for the study to be conducted in mid-2021.

The group agreed that the study should be clear on how a new facility could facilitate battery electric busses. The study will start in the spring and will take approximately three to four months to complete.

### **Digital On-demand Transit**

BC Transit staff explained they are seeking consulting services to review this new technology and assist in choosing a pilot community for digital on-demand transit.

### **Stakeholder Service/Project Updates**

Village of Cumberland staff explained that the Windermere Rd. project has been delayed but it could be initiated in March.

### **New Business**

- Scott Smith has been replaced as the General Manager of Property and Development Services by Alana Mullaly.
- BC Transit is welcoming any referrals for development proposals so they can provide advice to improve transit services.

### **Next Meeting**

The next transit management advisory committee meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2021 commencing at 10:00 am via Zoom.

The meeting terminated at 11:50 am.

Recorded By:

***S. Speed***

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S. Speed  
Branch Assistant – Executive  
Management Branch

Confirmed:

***M. Zbarsky***

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M. Zbarsky  
Manager of Transit and Sustainability