

Meeting notes of the Comox Valley Transit Management Advisory Committee held on May 22, 2020 in the Comox Valley Regional District Civic Room located at 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC commencing at 10:30 am.

PRESENT:

M. Moore, Senior Regional Transit Manager	BC Transit
A. McMullen, Transportation Planner	BC Transit
E. Amador, Transit Planner	BC Transit
S. Russwurm, Deputy Corporate Administrator	Town of Comox
C. Miller, Engineering Technologist	City of Courtenay
C. Davidson, Manager of Engineering Projects	City of Courtenay
R. Crisfield, Manager of Operations	Village of Cumberland
D. Richards, General Manager	PWT
S. Smith, General Manager of Planning and Development Services	CVRD
M. Zbarsky, Manager of Transit and Sustainability	CVRD
S. Speed, Branch Assistant – Executive Management Branch	CVRD

ITEMS

Management Report

The management report was reviewed.

BC Transit Corporate Update

This item was combined with the COVID19 Measures Update item.

BC Transit (BCT) staff explained they are moving into a recovery phase and measures on busses have been enhanced for the safety of passengers and drivers. June 1st is the start of front door loading on busses as well as fare payment.

Ridership Update

BCT staff reviewed slides comparing 2019 to 2020 ridership and noted that there is a recent trend of ridership going back up very slightly after a large decrease due to COVID-19.

5th Street Bridge Rehabilitation Update

City of Courtenay staff explained the project is still on track with timelines and the draft traffic management plan is expected to be complete June/July. BC Transit reiterated the need for transit prioritization up to and across the bridge. The city could not confirm that this would be accommodated.

CVRD staff explained that the CVRD Board is interested in innovative ideas regarding traffic management during the project. BCT discussed their preferred concept of transit priority measures up to and over the bridge as well as how an e-bike share concept led by others could be integrated with transit.

Transit Renewal Strategy

BCT staff expressed concerns about financial challenges during the pandemic and explained they are exploring the possibility of compensation from the Province.

It is the expectation that there will be a general increase in service over the next few months up to full service by September. There are concerns of pass ups during this time if ridership demand increases and service levels decrease.

Service Level Planning

BCT are recommending to consider increasing service levels but will continue to prepare for a reduced service level with CVRD final decisions on implementation required by early July and the committee agreed that there needs to be a little more time to get a better picture of ridership trends and the virus situation.

TIPS

BCT staff explained that there has not been anything determined in terms of process for the three year rolling expansion plan but confirmed it has been delayed. CVRD staff explained they would like to have options to the board in July and asked if BCT staff can provide preliminary numbers for the report.

Fare Change

CVRD staff explained fare collection will resume June 1st and that the fare changes previously planned for April will be brought in at that time.

Infrastructure Study Update

CVRD will assist with procurement of a contractor with hopes of sending out the Request for Proposals next week.

Stakeholder Service/Project Updates

Cumberland – Windermere, between 1st and 2nd, is out for tender currently

City of Courtenay – continuing with the resurfacing on Veterans Memorial Parkway

Next Meeting

The next Transit Management Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2020 commencing at 10:00 am in the CVRD Civic Room.

The meeting terminated at 12:10 pm.

Recorded By:

S. Speed

S. Speed
Branch Assistant – Executive
Management Branch

Confirmed:

M. Zbarsky

M. Zbarsky
Manager of Transit and Sustainability