

Meeting notes of the Comox Valley Transit Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) held on June 14, 2018 in the Comox Valley Regional District Boardroom located at 550B Comox Road, Courtenay, BC commencing at 10:10 am.

PRESENT:

M. Moore, Senior Regional Transit Manager	BC Transit
L. Megenbir, Senior Transit Planner	BC Transit
A. McMullen, Transportation Planner	BC Transit
K. Shaw, Manager of Transportation & Utilities Maintenance	City of Courtenay
R. Crisfield, Manager of Operations	Village of Cumberland
D. Richards, General Manager	Watson & Ash
M. Zbarsky, Manager of Transit and Sustainability	CVRD
S. Speed, Recording Secretary	CVRD

ITEMS

Management Report

The management report was reviewed.

BC Transit Corporate Update

BC Transit gave an update on the June 27th launch of the NextRide technology. There will be a demonstration bus located at the downtown Courtenay exchange. BC Transit will circulate full event details to the committee.

Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) staff explained that BC Transit is looking at installing new fare payment technology to allow 'tap' payment (e.g. through smartphones) in the future.

BC Transit staff mentioned that they are working with the CVRD on the Canada Day and BC Day bus services and explained that their scheduling department needs as much lead time as possible to be able to update the NextRide system.

The committee discussed the request from the Comox Business Improvement Association to provide a free shuttle service during the Saturday/Sunday Festival Weekend celebrations and agreed that it would be more feasible to offer the existing service for free rather than adding another service. CVRD staff inquired into what the revenue would typically be on a Saturday and Sunday. BC Transit staff will look into the numbers and report back.

September 2018 Service Change Process Update

BC Transit staff explained that they are developing a robust roll out presence on the grand opening on August 31st. Staff will be available to answer questions and assist riders with trip planning. CVRD staff and Watson and Ash staff are requested to be available in person on this day and September 4th (after the long weekend) to continue to assist with rider inquiries. All TMAC members are invited to attend.

BC Transit staff are anticipating circulating the expansion communication plan after a communications meeting on June 19th. A draft of the Riders Guide will be circulated to TMAC as well.

The committee discussed the desire to have new bus stops located at Kilpatrick and 29th Street to allow riders on the #2 Cumberland access to the Driftwood Mall before looping through Anfield Centre. BC Transit staff will provide some suggestions on stops and access to the area around Driftwood Mall.

The committee also discussed the new signage for the bus stops and agreed that delivery of the new signs would be appreciated in early August to allow time for installation.

BC Transit staff explained that there will be contingency busses being used for a couple of weeks of the expansion before delivery of the new Vicinity busses and the committee agreed that they will need to have the new NextRide technology installed on them.

Future Expansion

CVRD staff reviewed the letter received from BC Transit requesting CVRD commitment for expansion. BC Transit is going to revise the Memorandum of Understanding to give it more flexible language and clarify purpose of the expansion hours. TMAC is supportive of proceeding with the recommendation to expand HandyDART next year. BC Transit will send a revised letter to the CVRD which includes an August deadline for response. A report will be brought to the CVRD board for consideration of this expansion.

Stakeholder Service/Project Updates

City or Courtenay staff explained that 17th Street between Cliffe Ave. and Fitzgerald Ave. and Fitzgerald Ave. and McPhee Ave. will be resurfaced and work will be being done at the main exchanged in downtown Courtenay in mid-July. Traffic will be able to continue through on an alternating basis.

Village of Cumberland staff explained that the roadwork on Egermont Rd. should be commencing this summer. Busses will have to detour around the area.

Next Meeting

The next transit management advisory committee meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2018 commencing at 10:00 a.m. in the CVRD boardroom, 550B Comox Road, Courtenay.

The meeting terminated at 11:45 am.

Recorded By:

Confirmed:

S. Speed
Branch Assistant – Executive
Management Branch

M. Zbarsky
Manager of Transit and Sustainability