

File: 8500-01

March 6, 2020

Chair and Directors  
Committee of the Whole

**Re: Pilot Bus Program**

The Hornby Island Community bus project has been led by the Hornby Island Economic Enhancement Corporation (HICEEC ) since inception in 2017. Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has supported this initiative, including the development of a feasibility study, and funding to offset operating costs. The feasibility study included a survey and the results of this identified a cross Denman Island bus connection as the most important factor in peoples decision to ride the Hornby Bus (73 per cent of 102 survey participants).

A cross-Denman bus initiative (called the Wrong Bus) has recently emerged and is being supported by HICEEC and other partners and they are proposing to support and manage this as a one month pilot program in 2020 with the intent of aligning the Hornby and Denman bus schedules with the BC Ferries schedule and that of the Comox Valley Regional Transit system's route #10 Fanny Bay which provides service to Buckley Bay ferry terminal. The CVRD has received recent community feedback from residents of Hornby and Denman Islands to support this initiative. Data from this pilot would be valuable to determining the viability, impact and benefits of a cross Denman bus connection. Long-term decisions on the provision of transit on Hornby and Denman Islands can be made following the completion of the update to the Comox Valley Transit Future plan which is currently underway.

In the 2020 – 2024 Recommended Financial Plan for the Comox Valley Transit service, function #780, there is currently an allocation of \$20,000 in 2020 to provide further support the Hornby bus project.

I respectfully request the committee's consideration of the following:

THAT an operating contract expense of \$15,000 be included in the 2020-2024 recommended Financial Plan for the Comox Valley Transit service, function #780, payable to the Hornby Island Economic Enhancement Corporation for the purposes of piloting a cross-Denman bus initiative, to be funded by a contribution from the future expenditure reserve (#780).

Respectfully,

***D. Arbour***

Daniel Arbour  
Director