

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2005**

**A D D E N D U M**

**PAGES**

**COMMISSION, ADVISORY & SELECT COMMITTEE**

**District 69 Recreation Commission. (All Directors – One Vote)**

2-4 Minutes of the District 69 Recreation Committee meeting held November 17, 2005. (for information)

*That the Errington War Memorial Hall Community Grant request in the amount of \$5,000 be approved.*

*That the Commission review the criteria for the District 69 Recreation Community and Youth Grants Program for 2006.*

**Transit Business Plan Update Select Committee. (All Directors -- One Vote)**

5-6 Minutes of the Transit Business Plan Update Select Committee meeting held November 17, 2005. (for information)

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

7-10 Conventional Transit and HandyDART Fare Review.

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 69 RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

**Attendance:**

Frank Van Eynde  
Chris Burger  
Reg Nosworthy

Patty Brio  
Dave Bartram  
Eve Flynn

Jo-ann Chase  
Jack Wilson

**Delegation:**

Bob Herbison, Errington War Memorial Hall Association

**Staff:**

Tom Osborne  
Marilynn Newsted, Recording Secretary

Cathy MacKenzie

Dan Porteous

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**CALL TO ORDER**

1. Chair Van Eynde called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

**DELEGATIONS**

2. MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commission Biro, that the Errington War Memorial Hall Association representative Bob Herbison be received as a late delegation.  
CARRIED

Mr. Herbison presented an overview of the history of the Errington War Memorial Hall. He noted the Hall is a focal point for the Errington Community and is used regularly for arts and cultural events, concerts and social events. He reported the total cost to replace the hall roof was \$32,262 of which the Association had already raised \$25,000. Mr. Herbison requested that the Commission reconsider their grant request for \$5,000 to assist with the roof replacement costs.

**MINUTES**

- 3.1 MOVED Commissioner Biro, SECONDED Commissioner Bartram, that the Minutes of the District 69 Recreation Commission Regular Meeting held on November 17, 2005, be approved.

CARRIED

## FUNCTION REPORTS

5.1 Mr. Osborne reviewed the Function Reports for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Oceanside Place, Recreation Coordinating and Regional Parks and Trail and Community Parks (EA 'E' – 'H') highlighting the following items:

- Tenth anniversary celebrations were held October 29<sup>th</sup> for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre.
- Oceanside Place staff has created a warmer friendlier lobby area for the adult skaters on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays by turning on the fire place, serving coffee and setting up a seating area to encourage conversation.
- Programmer Jennifer Merner attended an Active Communities workshop and will be registering the Regional District into the program, which is one of the key components of the major provincial program called *Act Now BC under Legacies 2010*.
- The Request For Proposals for the Recreation Services Master Plan has been issued.

MOVED Commissioner Flynn, SECONDED Commissioner Chase, that the Function Reports be received.

CARRIED

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

6. Commissioners reviewed the Errington War Memorial Hall grant request and the information presented by Mr. Herbison.

MOVED Commissioner Wilson, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the Errington War Memorial Hall Community Grant request in the amount of \$5,000 be approved.

CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Burger, that Commission review the criteria for the District 69 Recreation Community and Youth Grants Program for 2006.

CARRIED

## NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Mr. Osborne reviewed the information supplied on the Olympic/Paralympic Live Sites Program.

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Flynn, that the RDN apply for funding from the Province of BC Olympic/Paralympic Live Sites Program for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre Wellness Centre addition.

CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Flynn, that \$10,000 in funding be allocated in the Regional District of Nanaimo's Five Year Financial Plan for 2006 to provide conceptual designs and drawings and for cost estimates for the Wellness Centre addition at the Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Flynn, that the RDN, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and School District 69 prepare a joint proposal in 2006 to apply for funding from the Province of BC Olympic/Paralympic Live Sites Program for the development of a track and field facility at Kwalikum Secondary School.

CARRIED

### COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

9. Commissioner Flynn thanked the Recreation staff for the programming offered during the recent teacher's job action.

Commissioner Nosworthy reported discussions had taken place with Home Depot regarding a grant request from the KABOOM Program for funding to replace the playground at French Creek Community School.

Commissioner Wilson reported the Town of Qualicum Beach had applied for Spirit 2010 funding for field lighting on two community park fields.

### ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:50pm.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held, Thursday, January 19, 2006, at Oceanside Place at 2:00 pm.

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Frank Van Eynde

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE TRANSIT BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE SELECT COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 17, 2005, AT 12:00 NOON  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM

**Present:**

Director T. Krall	Chairperson
Director L. McNabb	City of Nanaimo
Director B. Holdom	City of Nanaimo
A/Director F. Joe Burnett	Electoral Area A
Director J. Stanhope	Electoral Area G

**Also in Attendance:**

N. Connelly	General Manager, Community Services
D. Trudeau	Manager, Transportation Services
L. Kiteley	Superintendent, Transportation Services

**Regrets:**

Director H. Kreiberg	Electoral Area 'A'
Director D. Haimé	Electoral Area 'D'
Director T. Westbrook	Town of Qualicum Beach

**MINUTES**

MOVED Director Holdom, SECONDED A/Director Burnett, that the minutes of the Transit Business Plan Update Select Committee meeting held on October 27, 2005 be received for information.

CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**ADMINISTRATION**

MOVED Director Stanhope, SECONDED Director McNabb, that the Transit Business Plan Update Select Committee motion *'that the conventional transit fares remain unchanged and that the HandyDART fares be increased from \$11.25 to \$13.75 for a book of five tickets and that the monthly pass be eliminated as outlined in the staff report.'* be reconsidered

CARRIED

MOVED Director Burnett SECONDED Director McNabb *that the conventional transit fares remain unchanged and that the HandyDART fares be increased from \$11.25 to \$13.75 for a book of five tickets and that the monthly pass be eliminated as outlined in the staff report.*

DEFEATED

The Committee discussed various issues associated with the review of fares including the potential impact on ridership levels, the plans by other transit systems, and the past and projected increases in fuel prices. With respect to HandyDART the increasing demands on the system and the efforts to maximize the ridership levels through efficient routing and scheduling were also discussed along with the efforts to reduce the cost per ride from the current \$20 to \$18.

MOVED Director Burnett SECONDED Director McNabb, that the staff report and recommendation regarding transit fare increases be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

CARRIED

## NEW BUSINESS

A verbal update report on Department operational issues and initiatives was presented by staff.

### Service Expansion

Staff inquired about partnering with the business community to provide additional transit service on statutory holidays. This was unsuccessful; the Chamber of Commerce responded that they are already taxed heavily enough and that service expansions should be provided by the existing partnership.

Staff also met with the Malaspina University College administration and Student Union to discuss service expansion opportunities. UPASS is the BC Transit recommended method of increasing service to post secondary institutions. It was recognized that there will be a need for a well designed strategy developed to ensure the benefits of a U-pass are understood and supported for the initiative to advance.

### Sunday Schedule

Staff outlined the existing method of providing transit service on Sunday and the planned implementation of including Sunday in the regular work schedule. The expected benefits were described: improved days off and working conditions for staff, less sick time usage and an attempt to reconcile outstanding issues with the union regarding casual staff working full time hours in vacation relief. On the latter item a report will be prepared in the New Year in conjunction with the final budget approval and the status of the arbitration process.

### Schedule Review

Staff has undertaken a major review of the current runs. Information from the public and drivers has been compiled along with the passenger count data from October. The information will be reviewed by the transit scheduling committee and where operationally possible; routes and schedules will be improved. Recommendations will be brought forward to the Committee.

### Holiday and Remembrance Day Service

L. Kiteley outlined service changes during the Christmas season. Runs have been expanded at the suggestion of riders and drivers. No additional funding was necessary due to unused service hours as a result of the recent CUPE job action. New Years Eve service will again be supported by the donation of necessary operational funds from the Coastal Community Credit Union.

Five veterans were provided service on Remembrance Day. Resources required were 1 bus and driver for 3 hours. Staff plans to contact the Legion annually prior to Remembrance Day to plan for the service request.

MOVED Director Holdom SECONDED Director McNabb, that the verbal update report on operational issues and initiatives be received for information.

CARRIED

## ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Director McNabb SECONDED A/Director Burnett that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

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T. Krall, Chair

**TO:** Dennis Trudeau  
Manager of Transportation Services

**DATE:** October 20, 2005

**FROM:** Laura Kiteley  
Transportation Superintendent

**FILE:**

**SUBJECT:** Conventional Transit and HandyDART Fare Review

**PURPOSE**

To provide a detailed analysis of RDN Transit's current fare structure, comparing it with other tier one systems and to make recommendations on possible fare changes for January 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

With the overall cost increases the Transit system is facing, and leading into the planning cycle for 2006, the timing for a full review of the fare structure is appropriate. Information that will assist in determining whether a fare increase is necessary to help offset some of the increased costs is provided below.

As part of this analysis, a comparison with what other tier one systems (systems similar in size to ours) are charging was undertaken, to determine whether we are charging similar fees for our services or conversely to see if we are higher (or lower). A review of all discounted fares and the fare structure itself was also completed to determine if our discounted rates are in accordance with BC Transit's recommendations on discount fares.

In HandyDART, the fares have not increased since 1999, whereas in transit, the last two fare increases were in 1999 and then again in 2003. The chart shows the current fares charged by system:

*Conventional Transit*

	Nanaimo	Whistler	Kelowna	Kamloops	Prince George	C.F.Valley
<i>Cash Fare</i>						
Adult/College Student	\$2.00	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.50
Student/Senior	\$1.75	\$1.25	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.25
<i>Tickets - sheet of 10</i>				<i>Sheet of 20</i>		
Adult	\$18.00	\$13.00	\$18.50	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$13.50
Student/Senior/College	\$15.75	\$11.00	\$16.00	\$25.00	\$12.50	\$11.25
		5 ride, 10 ride, 20 ride, 7 day passes also avail				
<i>Day Pass</i>						
Adult	\$5.00	n/a	\$5.00	\$4.00	n/a	\$4.00
Student/Senior/College	\$4.00	n/a	\$4.00	\$3.50	n/a	\$3.00

	Nanaimo	Whistler	Kelowna	Kamloops	Prince George	C.F.Valley
<i>Monthly Pass</i>						
Adult	\$58.00	\$50.00	\$47.00	\$48.00	\$48.00	\$42.00
College Student*	\$47.00	\$35.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$32.00	\$34.00
Student/Senior	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$38.00	\$28.00	\$32.00	\$34.00
Semester Pass*	\$150.00	n/a	\$122.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
* for students, available only at the college			Full time students to grade 12, with valid ID, \$30.00	1BPASS - \$48.00 per semester		Students pay \$28. Four month passes \$85. Students, \$105. College Student

*HandyDART*

	Nanaimo	Whistler	Kelowna	Kamloops	Prince George	C.F.Valley
Single fare	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.25
Book of 5 tickets	\$11.25	n/a	\$11.25	\$10.00	\$10.00	n/a
Monthly Pass	\$75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

All prices are based on current fares that were in place as of September, 2005

\*Kelowna fares based on multi zone, as are Whistler & CF Valley HandyDART

\*Effective dates denote the fare in the riders guide, not when the system had a fare increase

In looking at the financial data, the following observations can be made:

- Nanaimo's adult monthly transit pass is 28% higher than C.F. Valley, 17% higher than Prince George & Kamloops, 19% higher than Kelowna and 14% higher than Whistler
- Nanaimo's adult cash transit fare is 25% higher than C.F. Valley & Whistler, and on par with Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George
- Nanaimo's adult handyDART fare is 20% higher than Prince George and Kamloops, 10% higher than C.F. Valley & Kelowna, and the same as Whistler

BC Transit has provided data that suggests that customers are sensitive to fare increases in transit, and that while the normal rate of decline in ridership is 3% for every 10% increase in fares, they feel that our decline may in fact be significantly more as the department are higher than other tier one systems in most fare categories, as the above data outlines. These figures are based on historical trends however, and do not reflect the changes that have occurred in the global economy – specifically fuel increases. Through effective marketing, staff believes the department can mitigate potential losses by educating the public on why the fares are increasing.

The Regional District of Nanaimo has higher operational costs due to our linear system (routes that run primarily north and south), which costs more to operate than a grid type system. Costs continue to rise each year: with fuel costs alone having increased from \$990,000 to \$1.3 million. Fuel prices for transit have increased from \$0.60 to \$0.90 a litre. In addition, all major transit providers (i.e. airline companies, BC Ferries, trucking companies) have added transportation surcharges, transit fares have not increased to reflect our additional operational costs.

Proposed increases for fares are outlined in Figure 1 below. Cash fares for conventional transit would increase to \$2.25 from \$2.00 and in Handy DART where tickets are sold in books of five, the single ride cash equivalent fare would increase from \$2.25 to \$2.75. In the case of monthly passes for students, adults and seniors, as well as the semester pass for Malaspina University College students, no change is being recommended.



The HandyDART monthly pass, which approximately forty clients currently take advantage of, is proposed to be discontinued. The monthly pass was instituted on a trial basis; but, the Department has found that the discounted pricing is not sustainable. Currently customers that use HandyDART passes are riding an average of 40 times per month while the price structure was based on 32. Customers also have service expectations of a monthly pass that exceed current capacity, (i.e. unlimited use, unlimited numbers of trips a day) notwithstanding that the Department is unable to meet the demands for rides.

Figure 1

	1999 Rates	2003 Rates	2006 Proposed
<b>Cash Fare</b>			
Adult/College Student	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.25
Student/Senior	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.00
<b>Tickets - sheet of 10</b>			
Adult	\$15.75	\$18.00	\$20.25
Student/Senior/College	\$3.50	\$15.75	\$18.00
<b>Day Pass</b>			
Adult	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.75
Student/Senior/College	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.50
<b>Monthly Pass</b>			
Adult	\$52.00	\$58.00	\$58.00
College Student	\$42.00	\$47.00	\$47.00
High School Student/Senior	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Semester Pass	\$134.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
<b>HandyDART</b>			
Single fare	\$2.50	\$2.50	n/a
Book of 5 tickets	\$11.25	\$11.25	\$13.75
Monthly Pass		\$75.00	n/a

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That fares for conventional transit and HandyDART be increased by the proposed amounts effective January 1, 2006.
2. That fares for conventional transit and HandyDart not be increased.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The fare changes are projected to increase revenue to the system by \$60,000.

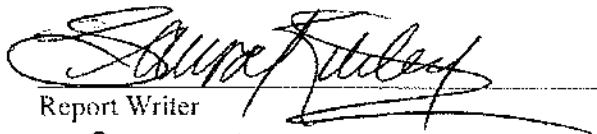
## SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

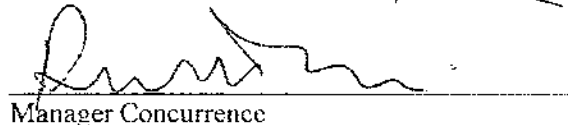
Over the past year there have been considerable cost increases in providing transit services due to higher fuel and operating costs. While all major transit providers (i.e. airline companies, BC Ferries, trucking companies) have added transportation surcharges, Regional District transit fares have not changed since January 2003.

Staff is recommending increases for fares; Cash fares for conventional transit would increase to \$2.25 from \$2.00 and in Handy DART where tickets are sold in books of five, the single ride cash equivalent fare would increase from \$2.25 to \$2.75. In the case of monthly passes for students, adults and seniors, as well as the semester pass for Malaspina University College students, no change is being recommended. As the conventional monthly pass is a key strategy in developing a strong commuter market and regular transit use among our customers it is proposed that they not increase in price, thereby encouraging more customers to convert to prepaid monthly passes. There are several advantages to customers that use prepaid passes, and the Department's marketing ads will outline these advantages along with the rising fuel cost pressures that are impacting the transit system.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report on the review of the conventional transit and HandyDART fares be received for information.
2. That conventional transit and HandyDART fares be increased effective January 1, 2006 as outlined in Figure 1.

  
Report Writer

  
Manager Concurrence

  
General Manager Concurrence