

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008**

A D D E N D U M

PAGES

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

2-4 Nanaimo Regional Transit's New Years Eve Service. (Nanaimo, Lantzville, EAs 'A' & 'C' – Weighted Vote)



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dennis Trudeau
General Manager, Transportation & Solid Waste Services

DATE: December 5, 2008

FROM: Laura Kiteley
Manager, Transit Projects & Planning

FILE: 1470-20-NYEA

SUBJECT: Nanaimo Regional Transit New Year's Eve Service

PURPOSE

To bring forward a report on providing public transit for New Year's Eve.

BACKGROUND

Since 2004, transit services for New Year's Eve have been provided to the residents of Nanaimo free of charge due to funding from local companies and community groups. Having a sponsor of the event meant customers could attend functions within the community while leaving their vehicles at home.

Over the last five years staff has been successful in securing funding to ensure the service will be offered. It has become increasingly difficult to find one group or agency to provide funding in the amount of approximately \$6,000 for this event, despite the marketing and promotions that occur recognizing their contributions and sponsorship. The New Year's Eve service provides free rides to between 1,500 and 2,000. It appears as though the sponsor from 2007 may not be able to sponsor this year's service and staff has not included New Year's Eve service in the Transit budget.

In consultation with BC Transit, staff has determined that the other tier one systems provide New Year's Eve service (Kelowna, Kamloops, Prince George, Central Fraser Valley, and Victoria), as do five other slightly smaller communities. Kamloops charges \$1.00 per ride and, other than the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), Kitimat is the only system that has the service sponsored. The other eight systems provide the service free of charge with the municipality picking up 100% of the cost.

Staff is recommending that New Year's Eve service be offered, with the costs being covered by the RDN's Transit budget. In addition, staff is recommending that due to the importance of this event, the New Year's Eve service be added to successive Annual Operating Agreements between the RDN and BC Transit. This would ensure the service is offered annually, whether a sponsor is found or not, and staff would then budget appropriately to ensure there were no negative budget implications.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Regional District of Nanaimo implement New Year's Eve Service at a reduced fare of \$1.00.
2. That the Regional District of Nanaimo implement New Year's Eve service free of charge.
3. Do not provide transit service on New Year's Eve.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Alternative 1

The proposed service at a fare of \$1.00 would bring in approximately \$1,500 - \$2,000 in fares so the total cost to the function would be approximately \$4,000 - \$4,500.

Alternative 2

The proposed service with no fare would cost approximately \$6,000.

Alternative 3

No budget implications would occur.

Staff is forecasting a modest surplus in the Transit budget; it would not be jeopardized by these additional costs.

SUSTAINABILITY

Offering public transportation services on New Year's Eve provides people with alternatives in their transportation planning for the evening, allowing them to leave their cars at home if they choose. Cleaner running buses that maximize the use of biodiesel will be used and these environmentally friendly buses demonstrate RDN Transit's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, which is in keeping with the RDN's Corporate Climate Change Plan.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

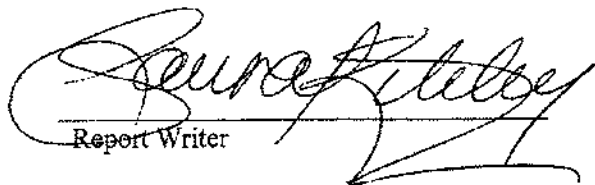
Since 2004, New Year's Eve transit services have been provided to the residents of Nanaimo free of charge due to funding from local companies and community groups. Having a sponsor of the event ensured customers could attend various functions in the community while leaving their vehicles at home. It has become increasingly more difficult for staff to find sponsors and this year it appears as though the sponsor has fallen through, despite the importance of event.

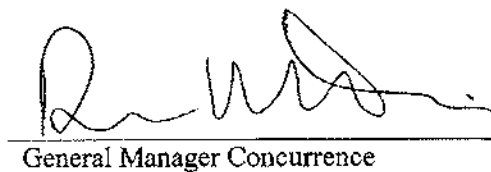
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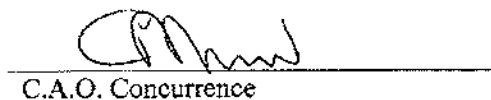
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RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional District of Nanaimo implement New Year's Eve Service free of charge and to include this service in future Annual Operating Agreements with BC Transit.


Report Writer


General Manager Concurrence


C.A.O. Concurrence