

DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE TRANSIT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2012 AT 12:00 NOON IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM

Present:

Director D. Brennan	Chairperson
Director A. McPherson	Electoral Area 'A'
Alternate	
Director F. Van Eynde	Electoral Area 'E'
Director B. Veenhof	Electoral Area 'H'
Director M. Lefebvre	City of Parksville
Director D. Willie	Town of Qualicum Beach
Director B. Dempsey	District of Lantzville
Director T. Greves	City of Nanaimo

Also in Attendance:

C. Mason	CAO, RDN
D. Trudeau	Gen. Mgr, Transportation & Solid Waste Services, RDN
D. Pearce	Manager, Transit Operations, RDN
Director H. Houle	Electoral Area 'B'
B. Clemens	City of Nanaimo
M. Moore	BC Transit
J. Wadsworth	BC Transit
T. Wegwitz	BC Transit
F. McFarlane	Recording Secretary, RDN

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by the Chair.

MINUTES

MOVED Director Lefebvre, SECONDED Director Greves that the minutes of the regular Transit Select Committee meeting held May 17, 2012 be adopted. CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Tom Lee, of Tom Lee Management Consultants, re presentation of concerns regarding the RDN partnership with BC Transit.

Director Lefebvre thanked staff for the well-written letter to Tom Lee, which covered their collective concerns.

Anonymous correspondence, re locating a bus shelter between Brickyard and Turner.

D. Trudeau noted this correspondence will be directed to the City of Nanaimo for their consideration.

MOVED Director Greves, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the above correspondence be received.

CARRIED

BC TRANSIT UPDATE

Director Brennan introduced Myrna Moore, Regional Transit Manager; James Wadsworth, Senior Transit Planner and Tania Wegwitz, Business Development Manager, all of BC Transit. J. Wadsworth provided a detailed presentation on the *Regional District of Nanaimo Future Transit Plan*. D. Trudeau noted that this presentation will be followed by a report by staff to the Transit Select Committee. A major concern among the Directors present is the aging population and the growing dependence on public transportation in several areas of the RDN. Since many of the urban areas within the RDN tend to be spread out, bus service improvements will have to be carefully planned. J. Wadsworth advised that BC Transit and the RDN will be inviting neighbourhood groups and individuals to participate in the stakeholder process. The process will look at the scope of the work, the timeline and the costs involved. Alternative ways to make transit more user-friendly, i.e., inter-regional service, more flexible routing and the use of smaller buses, will be explored. D. Trudeau noted that the existing transit plan will be used as a basis for the *Regional District of Nanaimo Future Transit Plan*.

MOVED Director Greves, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the presentation on the RDN Transit Future Plan be received for information.

CARRIED

REPORTS

RDN Transit Business Plan Update.

D. Pearce noted the focus of this update is on community engagement and involvement. A BC Transit media bus will visit communities providing them with the opportunity to offer input. J. Wadsworth advised that the public portion is scheduled to begin in October 2012 and noted that this will be well advertised in local media and on-line. In order to make members of the community aware of this process, D. Trudeau stated that he would discuss this with our Communications Department and develop a media release outlining the process.

MOVED Director Lefebvre, SECONDED Director Veenhof, that the Terms of Reference for the RDN Transit Future Plan be received for information.

CARRIED

BC Transit Custom Service Area Proposal.

D. Pearce spoke on the negative impact of providing handyDART service to remote areas and the proposal by BC Transit to create a Custom Transit Service Area Policy in the form of a 1.5 kilometre buffer around the existing fixed route conventional system. D. Trudeau noted that such a policy would help Transit contain costs and maximize efficiency. There was concern raised that this draft policy would limit access specifically in Electoral Areas.

Staff indicated that they are recommending an amendment to the BC Transit policy, which would expand the service area to include areas within 1.5 kilometres of a Rural Village Centre. This would be in line with the RDN Regional Growth Strategy Plan and still help contain costs and increase efficiency. Director Willie stated that it is important to provide people with the knowledge of how the RDN sees the system and to make them aware of the increasing costs. The public need to know what direction the RDN is moving so that they can make their decisions based on fact.

MOVED Director Greves, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that the Board advise BC Transit of their support for the Custom Transit Service Area Proposal with the amendment that Custom transit should also be made available to customers meeting the criteria, within 1.5 kilometres of Rural Village Centres, as identified in the RDN Regional Growth Strategy. CARRIED

Electoral Area 'B' Taxi Saver Report.

Director Houle thanked D. Trudeau for the report on the Electoral Area 'B' Taxi Saver Service and the opportunity to discuss the feasibility of having a Taxi Saver Program for low-income seniors, in addition to those riders with disabilities.

In discussion, M. Moore noted that the Taxi Saver Program was initiated to complement handyDART services; it was not established as a stand-alone program for low income seniors and is based on mobility, not age.

MOVED Director Greves, SECONDED Director Veenhof, that staff be directed to develop a service area establishment bylaw for the creation of a Taxi Saver Service for Gabriola Island to be submitted to the electors of Electoral Area 'B' for approval. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Director Greves requested clarification on the Fare Box Program as referenced in D. Trudeau's correspondence to Tom Lee, of the BC Transit Independent Review Panel. D. Trudeau noted that the basic fare boxes had been removed and replaced with an electronic system that is able to provide more information.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Director Veenhof, SECONDED Director Van Eynde, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

TIME: 1:33 PM

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Transit Select Committee is set tentatively for Thursday, September 20, 2012, in the RDN Committee Room.

CHAIRPERSON