

Victoria Regional Transit Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Held at BC Transit  
520 Gorge Road East  
Tuesday, October 27, 2009  
9 am – 12 pm

**PRESENT:** Mayor Christopher Causton, Chair  
Councillor Susan Brice  
Mayor Janet Evans  
Mayor Dean Fortin  
Mayor Jack Mar

**REGRETS:** Mayor Frank Leonard

**BC TRANSIT STAFF:** Manuel Achadinha, President & CEO  
Steve New, Vice President & COO  
Tony Sharp, Vice President & CFO  
Mike Davis, Vice President of Business Development & CIO  
Graeme Masterton, Direction, Planning  
Phil Easton, General Manager, Victoria Operations  
Linda Moss, *Recorder*

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Mayor Christopher Causton, Chair.

MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR FORTIN that the Agenda be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BRICE AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS that the Minutes of the September 15, 2009 Commission meeting be approved, as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. Business Arising From Previous Meeting**

None.

#### **4. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair shared a Letter to the Editor in a local newspaper that complimented a BC Transit operator. Councillor Brice added her compliments regarding operators she observes at her workplace. The Chair also said that he traveled unannounced on the HandyDART system and found the customer service to be impressive. Manuel Achadinha noted that BC Transit is piloting the Arboc, a more customer-friendly, low-floor vehicle which offers side-entry for persons with mobility devices.

#### **5. President & CEO's Remarks**

Manuel Achadinha stated that the new Langford Exchange has prompted passenger complaints. The new location has disrupted some local service and offers less convenience for waiting passengers. The project was initiated because Westshore Town Centre could not accommodate transit requirements. The CEO noted that it is an interim solution. Westshore Town Centre management has requested that BC Transit return limited service to the mall, which is being negotiated at the present time.

The CEO reported that the success of Routes 12 & 13 has resulted in the number of passengers at peak times exceeding capacity. Staff is investigating running a larger bus at peak times.

The CEO recommended a revised date of January 12, 2010 for the next Commission meeting in order to provide more time for the fare review public consultation process.

#### **6. Tariff Options for Public Review**

Staff submitted a report presenting a fare option and consultation process to the Commission for approval. Staff noted the revised dates for consultation and notice to register for the public hearing given the proposed January 12, 2010 Commission meeting date.

MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRICE that the Tariff Options for Public Review be approved for public consultation.

**CARRIED**

#### **7. Late Night Service**

Staff presented a report for approval which described the criteria for assessment and an evaluation of a fare surcharge for the Late Night Service pilot project. These items were requested by the Commission at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

MOVED BY MAYOR FORTIN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR MAR that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission approve the criteria presented for assessment of the late night service pilot project and maintain the existing fare structure for the pilot project period.

**CARRIED**

#### **8. Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Status Report**

Staff presented a report with information regarding alignment options for the Victoria Regional Rapid Transit project and a recommendation for endorsement of the preferred alignment for further assessment.

MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR MAR that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission endorse:

**Section A:** Colwood corners to Six Mile (the connection from Colwood corners to Langford is being assessed through a design charette with the municipality of Langford)

**Section B:** Six Mile to Uptown

**Section C:** Finalize the two options: Douglas or Douglas/Government Couplet

Although the Commission acknowledges the E&N corridor is not the preferred alignment for Rapid Transit, the corridor is still being assessed by the province as a possible commuter rail service which would compliment Rapid Transit.

When complete, the results of the Province's study on the E&N will be incorporated into the analysis of the Master Plan for the Victoria Regional Transit System.

**CARRIED**

## **9. 2010/11 Budget Outlook**

Staff presented a report outlining the 2010/11 preliminary operating budget for endorsement. It was noted that this budget was developed on a conservative basis.

MOVED BY MAYOR FORTIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRICE that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission endorse the Preliminary Base Budget of \$95.1 million and Preliminary Expansion Budget of \$98.1 million.

**CARRIED**

## **10. Financial and Performance Report (results to Sept. 30, 2009)**

Staff presented a status report for information, providing a summary of the 2009/10 financial and performance results for the period ending September 20, 2009 and a forecast to March 31, 2010.

MOVED BY MAYOR MAR AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission receive this report for information.

**CARRIED**

## **11. McTavish Interchange Project (verbal)**

Staff presented a verbal summary of information with regard to the impact of the new interchange project on transit services during construction. Starting in late November, road closures on McTavish and Canora will span approximately one year. It was stated that a community shuttle will be required on Lochside between Sidney and Saanichton

and adjustments on most existing routes in that area. It was reported that the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure will fund additional operating costs for this fiscal year.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR MAR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRICE that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission receive the report for information.

**CARRIED**

#### **14. Correspondence**

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR MAR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRICE that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission receive correspondence.

**CARRIED**

#### **15. New Business**

It was reported that the Sooke Park and Ride project is nearing completion. There will be an event scheduled to acknowledge the opening.

#### **16. Adjournment**

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY MAYOR FORTIN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS.

**CARRIED**

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:59 am

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 12, 2010