

**SUBJECT**

Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Report

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the November 2009 minutes for **INFORMATION** .

**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Commission and to BC Transit on transit for persons with a disability in the Victoria region, including review and comment on plans, projects and operating policy/guidelines. The committee consists of nine members.

**DISCUSSION**

The minutes of the ATAC meeting held on November 24, 2009 are attached for information. The committee reviewed the fare proposal and its summary comments to the Commission are noted in the minutes. These summary comments, plus detailed notes from the meeting and subsequent comments from the ATAC Chair, were provided to BC Transit's fare review team.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the VRTC receive the minutes of the November 24, 2009 ATAC meeting for information.

Respectfully,



Manuel Achadinha  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment 1: November 24<sup>th</sup> ATAC Meeting Minutes

Attachment 1

**ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ATAC)**

Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

BC TRANSIT BOARDROOM, VICTORIA

Attendance:

<b>Members:</b>	Barbara MacLean (acting Chair), Judith-Ann Manning, Pat Danforth, Mary Kay Kennedy, Barbara Harwood, , Mohan Kang, Wendy Ramsay,
<b>Regrets:</b>	Marnie Essery (Chair), Joanne Neubauer
<b>Others:</b>	Steve New, Peter Rantucci, Myrna Moore, Wanda le Roux, Ian Martin, Bob Allen, Susan Sowden and Linda Moss(recorder),

*The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.*

<b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barbara MacLean chaired the meeting in Marnie Essery's absence.</li><li>• Steve New, COO welcomed the committee and presented certificates of appreciation to those whose terms are complete at the end of 2009.</li><li>• It was confirmed that the contact for information flow at BC Transit is through Myrna Moore, Regional Transit Manager. BC Transit will bring in appropriate staff as necessary to ATAC meetings.</li></ul>
<b>2. General Housekeeping Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wendy Ramsay expressed disappointment at the more streamlined process being adopted for this committee through the new Charter.</li><li>• Linda Moss asked that any special requirements for meetings/paperwork be forwarded to her so they could be incorporated in future.</li></ul>
<b>3. Approval of 2010 Meeting Schedule</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposed meeting schedule will incorporate the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC) meeting schedule. Meetings will be held prior to VRTC meetings whenever possible.</li><li>• Discussion was held to raise concerns regarding possible changes in VRTC meeting schedule. The ATAC meetings will be held before the VRTC meetings so this will not affect the ATAC schedule.</li></ul>
<b>4. ATAC Member Recruitment Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Susan Sowden raised the issue of looking into a wider range for recruitment. Peter Rantucci asked that if there were contacts made available we would gladly follow up on those. It was suggested that Marnie Essery would have a list of possible contacts and we should coordinate our search efforts with her.</li><li>• Pat Danforth notified the committee that there was a name put forward for the committee that was missed and wasn't notified to enter a nomination form.</li><li>• Susan Sowden inquired about the selection process. Myrna Moore said BC Transit is following the selection process outlined in the ATAC Charter. Peter Rantucci asked for alternative suggestions and Susan Sowden asked that if there was the option to have others participate she would be interested in being a part of the selection process.</li></ul>

	<b>Mayor Causton, Chair of VRTC</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Causton joined the meeting to thank ATAC members for their years of service and their patience in the past year while waiting for the VRTC members to be appointed.</li> <li>• Mayor Causton reported that he rode the HandyDART system incognito to experience it firsthand and was impressed at the level of service he received.</li> <li>• Mayor Causton informed the committee that he will attend ATAC meetings until the seventh member of the VRTC is appointed.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Rapid Transit Update</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred to the next meeting agenda due to the fact that the Tariff Proposal item will be on the next VRTC agenda.</li> <li>• Pat Danforth is a member of one of the committees working on the Rapid Transit project and confirmed that they are just compiling data at this point and are defining the corridor. No vehicle has been chosen yet. The next phase will be the technology. .</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Bus Stop Infrastructure</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Martin informed the members that the VRTC began taking steps 1 year ago to increase ridership and this included upgrading the BC Transit bus stops. The project includes approximately 500 bus stops. The number one goal is to make sure the stops are accessible. Ian Martin advised the ATAC members that if they are aware of a stop that has an issue, please notify Myrna Moore and she will forward the information to the appropriate staff member who will move that stop to the top of the list to be looked at.</li> <li>• There was discussion among the group regarding the lack of safety and accessibility at the Langford exchange. BC Transit is aware of this and is working on solutions for that exchange.</li> <li>• It was noted that in the past Municipalities built the bus stops and now we are instilling guidelines to be considered in this process.</li> <li>• Ian Martin informed the group that there are 2500 accessible stops in Victoria and 5000 throughout British Columbia.</li> <li>• Wanda Le Roux reported that in our January 2010 expansion plans all new stops are to grade.</li> <li>• Mary Kay Kennedy raised the issue that accessibility is an issue in shelters and larger print should be incorporated into information posted there. She also inquired about the possibility of an announcement system. Ian Martin answered that they are expensive and prone to vandalism. Wanda Le Roux asked any of the members who use the Royal Oak Exchange to provide input on the new signage being tested there.</li> <li>• Ian Martin informed the group that this bus stop project is just gearing up and any input is welcome.</li> <li>• Judith-Ann Manning asked why drivers cannot call out the stops. Some members responded that it becomes an issue of volume depending on the amount of riders and the comfort level of the operator etc.</li> <li>• Bob Allen asked if there were photos of options for stops available yet. Ian Martin responded that there are not yet. That is what is being compiled at the moment.</li> <li>• Susan Sowden inquired as to whether or not there was a phone at the Langford Exchange as she understood there wasn't one. Ian Martin responded that he was at the Langford Exchange earlier that</li> </ul>

	<p>day and there is a phone there. The group discussed the fact that many people have cell phones now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Martin informed the members that in future shelters a security measure would be cameras and that shelters are being pre-wired for that purpose. Lighting is also a large concern when planning a bus shelter.</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Tariff Proposal</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wanda Le Roux gave an overview of the information provided to the ATAC committee prior to the meeting for review. This information originated from the previous VRTC meeting, the website and the online survey being offered to the public for input.</li> </ul> <p>There were four summary comments and concerns expressed by ATAC members at the meeting, with additional comments provided later by the Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancellation of the day pass may eliminate the option for new users to 'test drive' transit.</li> <li>• Seniors may not be able to afford the increase, potentially restricting their mobility.</li> <li>• A fare increase, and the percentage of increase, will be a disincentive to use transit.</li> <li>• A clear communications and marketing plan is needed to describe the off-peak pass rules and to promote the more affordable ticket and pass options. Include the Travel Training program as an element of this plan.</li> </ul>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Master Plan</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wanda Le Roux outlined the Master Plan to ATAC members stating that there have been many people involved through committee participation as well as open houses and recording of public opinions etc. It was reported that at the present time the identification of the main corridors to be used is the focus. The map supplied indicates the Rapid Transit Lines. Wanda Le Roux will make larger maps available if requested. The goal is to make transfers during rides more seamless. Input was requested from members.</li> <li>• Judith-Ann Manning raised the issue that most of the bus stops are too far from corners and that scheduling problems left the customer waiting too long for transfer vehicles.</li> </ul>
<b>10.</b>	<b>New Business</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None raised</li> </ul>

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2010**