

## ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Video/Conference Call (**TEAMS**), 520 Gorge Road East

### Minutes (**APPROVED**)

**For November 21, 2022 3:30-5pm**

|          |  |           |       |
|----------|--|-----------|-------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Call to Order</b><br>Meeting was called to order at 3:33pm  |           | Chair |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Confirmation of Quorum</b><br><b>Committee members present :</b> K. Highsted, M. Kang, D. Monsour (Chair) and I. Sommerville<br><br><b>BC Transit Staff:</b> K. Armstrong, C. Fudge and L. Byers<br><br><b>Victoria handyDART Staff:</b> W. Davey   | Confirmed | Chair |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Approval of the Agenda</b><br>Moved by I. Sommerville and Seconded by M. Kang to approve agenda. Motion Carried.  | Approved  | Chair |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2022</b><br>Moved by K. Highsted and Seconded by I. Sommerville to approve minutes. Motion Carried.   | Approved  | Chair |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Chair's Remarks</b><br>- No remarks   |           | Chair |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Action Items from Previous Meeting</b>  |           |       |
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Armstrong to research how other Transit systems recruit new members to similar committees (IN PROGRESS - Carried Forward from 2022 JUL 21 meeting)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Committee Member S. Jennings volunteered to assist with research of other committees with accessible mandates</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>- K. Armstrong will forward recommendation from ATAC that BCT Training Department use people with disabilities during their training program (COMPLETED – E-mail attached)</li> <br/> <li>- K. Armstrong will send draft of letter to VRTC from Chair to D. Monsour for approval and direction (COMPLETED – Letter attached)</li> </ul> |           | Chair |

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| 7 | <b>Standing Item</b>  |          |  |
|   | <p><b>handyDART Report</b></p> <p>Updates from October 3, Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Highsted asked if there was any thought into providing riders with a notification that a taxi vs a bus will be coming to pick them up? Or is taxi does not show up can rider text the company? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o W. Davey replied – This feature will be added he list of new website software updates. These notifications ae already happening in Vancouver.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- S. Jennings asked if handyDART was still providing evening service as part of the agreed upon service extension in June 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o W. Davey confirmed this service is being supported, but is based on client demand. However can accommodate pick up requests between 11-11:30pm (service ends at midnight).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>W. Davey reported the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three (3) new drivers are in training; still working on getting staffing levels where they need to be</li> <li>- Still lots of demand for service; 10 new applicants for service have been received</li> <li>- New handyDART facility received recognition as the first Salmon First initiative on southern Vancouver Island</li> <li>- When facility opens, it will support the first and only electric handyDART fleet in the province</li> </ul> <p>K. Highsted asked how to report a problem on the new on-line booking system?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- W. Davey reported that more and more clients are using the website, using the site to cancel appointments has been very helpful</li> <li>- W. Davey will have someone contact Committee Member Highsted to discuss their question</li> </ul> | For Info | W. Davey – GM, Victoria handyDART        |
| 8 | <b>New Business</b>   |          |  |
|   | <p>Victoria Regional Transit System (VRTS) Introductions and Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- C. Fudge (Sr. Manager for Government Relations) introduced L. Byers as the new Government Relations Manager for the VRTS.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>  | For Info | C. Fudge and L. Byers – BC Transit Staff |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- L. Byers role includes working with the 13 local governments in the Greater Victoria Region</li> <li>- C. Fudge reported that since the October 2022 municipal elections the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC) is “in limbo” as BC Transit awaits appointments to the Commission by the Province of BC. It is uncertain when this will occur. The next VRTC meeting is scheduled for February 2023.</li> <li>- C. Fudge reported that at the last VRTC meeting a draft budget was presented and the annual expansion plan was discussed. HandyDART’s on-line booking system and the potential expansion for a Rapid Bus service were also discussed. Like other industries, transit has been affected by the post-pandemic labour shortage.</li> <li>- C. Fudge reported on the following new initiatives coming to the VRTS in 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Electronic Fare system (UMO)</li> <li>o Battery Electric Buses added to the fleet</li> </ul> </li> <li>- I. Sommerville asked how the electric buses will be introduced to the public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o C. Fudge reported that staff will be available to answer questions and a demo bus will be in service for customers to ride for free and learn about the vehicle</li> </ul> </li> <li>- K. Highsted asked if the UMO system will have tap capabilities for annual passes – makes it easier for customers with mobility challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o K. Armstrong will provide K. Highsted with requested info</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Motion to receive report for information made by M. Kang and Seconded by I. Sommerville. Motion Carried.</p> |                        |  |
| 9  | <p><b>Review of New Action Items from current meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Armstrong to provide electronic fare system “tap” capabilities to K. Highsted.</li> </ul>  | For Info and Follow Up |  |
| 10 | <p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>Moved by I. Sommerville and Seconded by K.Highsted to adjourn meeting. Motion Carried.</p>  |                        |  |

