

**March 19, 2024**

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**PREPARED FOR:**

Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC)

**PURPOSE:**

To provide the Commission with a summary report of the business conducted by the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). This report is presented to the Commission for

**APPROVAL.**

**BACKGROUND**

The last ATAC meeting was held on January 29, 2024, led by D. Monsour, ATAC Chair. Minutes of the meeting are attached for the Commission's reference and convenience.

**DISCUSSION**

The Committee discussed the following:

- Floating Bus Stops – Committee members were interested in BC Transit's participation in determining the future of Floating Bus Stops in the Greater Victoria area. The Province of BC has initiated a working group to develop infrastructure guidelines for these bus stops, with participation from impacted stakeholder groups. A presentation will be made to the Committee at a future date on this topic.
- Proposed Fare Increases – A fulsome discussion on the proposed fare increases was held. No follow up action items were determined.
- Taxi Saver Program – In January 2023, Yellow Cab decided to no longer participate in the Taxi Saver Program. Eligible handyDART riders receive "chits"/vouchers to take a taxi instead of a handyDART vehicle, as part of the handyDART service. These vouchers provide registered handyDART clients with a 50% discount on their taxi fares. Through this program, taxi companies were then reimbursed by BC Transit for the fare. Yellow Cab's withdrawal from the program has potentially impacted the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles. The Committee was advised that BC Transit is trying to meet again with Yellow Cab to discuss the potential of re-joining the program.

Once again due to the high participation of Committee members and lengthy discussions, several agenda items were not addressed before several Committee members had to leave due to scheduled handyDART pick-ups. Several long serving Committee Members shared how much they appreciate the discussion and the representation of staff from BC Transit and from the VRTC, when Commissioners are able to attend. The next meeting has been scheduled for March 25, 2024.

The Committee passed a motion requesting that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission provide ATAC members with monthly bus passes while in good standing as Committee

Members. Currently, ATAC members receive no compensation for their participation on this Committee, and for members to provide valuable contributions to discussions, they must ride transit.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission **RECEIVE** the ATAC Update for **INFORMATION**;

and,

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission **APPROVE** complimentary transit passes for both conventional and custom transit for ATAC members for the duration of their term on the Committee.

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Date prepared: March 1, 2024

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