

**Victoria Regional Transit Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
Held at BC Transit
520 Gorge Road East
Tuesday, September 18, 2018
9:00 AM**

PRESENT: Councillor Susan Brice, Chair
Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Mayor Alice Finall
Mayor Carol Hamilton
Mayor Lisa Helps
Mayor Maja Tait
Councillor Geoff Young

REGRETS: Mayor Richard Atwell

BC TRANSIT STAFF: Brian Anderson, Vice President Operations & Chief Operating Officer
Jonathon Dyck, Communications Manager
Dave Guthrie, General Manager Victoria Operations
Megan Hill, Director, Budgeting and Forecasting
Lindsay Taylor, Senior Transit Planner
Levi Timmermans, Manager Infrastructure, Planning & Projects
James Wadsworth, Planning Manager
Cara Weirmier, Executive Assistant (*Recorder*)

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Susan Brice.

Moved by Mayor Desjardins and seconded by Mayor Helps to APPROVE the agenda as presented

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 17, 2018

Moved by Mayor Desjardins and seconded by Mayor Hamilton to APPROVE the minutes as presented

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

It has been a successful start to the school year with increased transit service throughout the region; staff will monitor and report back.

Thank you to Mayor Finall for her service to the community and the Commission. Because she is not seeking re-election this will be her last meeting.

5. DELEGATIONS

- a) TransitRythm, Bevan Thistlethwaite – presented a proposal for a Smart Bus Stop employing “inclusive design” that would meet the needs of the broader community.
- b) Jordan and Tillie Stranger-Ross – requested a change to the family travel program to allow minors 13-18 to take younger children on the bus.

Motion by Mayor Desjardins and seconded by Mayor Helps to grant the request by changing the wording related to the family travel program to “13 years and over” from “19 years and over”.

CARRIED

- c) Judith-Ann Manning – requested more forward-facing wheelchair securement spaces on transit buses.

6. MOTIONS WITH NOTICE – for APPROVAL

A) Electric bus business case development, Mayor Helps

Direct staff to build on the electric bus pilot project and to prepare a business case and implementation plan for the transition of the Victoria Transit Commission fleet to electric by 2030 and that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission indicate to the BC Transit Board of Directors that the Victoria Region would like to be the pilot community in British Columbia for the transition to electric vehicles.

Motion by Mayor Helps and seconded by Mayor Hamilton to APPROVE the motion as provided.

Motion by Mayor Finall and seconded by Mayor Desjardins to AMEND the motion to read “to prepare a projection and implementation plan, ...”

CARRIED

Motion by Mayor Finall and seconded by Mayor Helps to APPROVE the amended motion as follows:

Direct staff to build on the electric bus pilot project and to prepare a projection and implementation plan for the transition of the Victoria Transit Commission fleet to electric by 2030 and that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission indicate to the BC Transit Board of Directors that the Victoria Region would like to be the pilot community in British Columbia for the transition to electric vehicles.

CARRIED

7. FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE – for INFORMATION

Megan Hill

The Transit fund is projected to be \$3.9M at year end while the Operating reserve is forecasted to be \$10.6M at year end (\$461,000 higher than budgeted).

Motion by Mayor Tait and seconded by Mayor Desjardins to RECEIVE the report as presented.

CARRIED

8. WINTER 2019 ROUTE CHANGES – for APPROVAL

James Wadsworth

This report presented routing changes designed to take advantage of the bus zone and transit priority signal on Carey Road to access the Douglas Street bus lanes.

Motion by Mayor Desjardins and seconded by Mayor Finall to APPROVE the report as presented.

CARRIED

9. WORLD JUNIOR HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP REQUEST – for APPROVAL

Brian Anderson

Hockey Canada has requested free bus service for the volunteers of the event. This has been granted in the past by the Commission to support the World Curling event and more recently for the anniversary celebrations of the Commonwealth Games. Volunteers will need to show their credentials when boarding the bus to receive free transit.

Motion by Mayor Desjardins and seconded by Mayor Tait to APPROVE the request.

CARRIED

10. LATE NIGHT SERVICE REPORT - for INFORMATION

James Wadsworth.

This report provided information on extending late night service from the downtown core. A workshop will be held at a later date to review and prioritize the use of available service hours along with potential implementation plans.

Motion by Mayor Helps and seconded by Mayor Finall to RECEIVE the report as presented

CARRIED

11. OPERATIONS UPDATE – for INFORMATION

David Guthrie

There has been a notable increase in ridership throughout the summer, especially on busy tourist routes. For the first quarters of the year, the majority of customer complaints have been related to schedule reliability due primarily to the impact of construction in the area.

The electric bus will be concluding its revenue service October 5, 2018. To date, many customers and residents have provided positive feedback with regards to the quiet nature of the bus.

Motion by Mayor Tait and seconded by Mayor Finall to RECEIVE the update for information.

CARRIED

12. PLANNING UPDATE – for INFORMATION

James Wadsworth

Fall service changes have included increases in service to match demand, with two new routes added: the 9 and the 87. There have also been improvements made to the Peninsula routes to better serve the Victoria Airport. BC Transit continues to meet with the public and local councils regarding the Local Area Transit Plans, while also working with city staff on infrastructure initiatives, including the Uptown Exchange and the Island Highway Priority Study.

Motion by Mayor Finall and seconded by Mayor Desjardins to RECEIVE the update for information.

CARRIED

13. ISLAND HIGHWAY BUS PRIORITY LANE UPDATE – for INFORMATION

James Wadsworth

BC Transit continues to work with local councils and staff to advance the Westshore priority lane and Park & Ride projects.

Motion by Mayor Tait and seconded by Mayor Desjardins to RECEIVE the update for information.

CARRIED

14. INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE –for INFORMATION

Levi Timmermans

Construction continues on the paint and body shop, with most of the exterior work now complete. The BC Bus Shelter Program includes the installation or replacement of 25 shelters in the Victoria region by March 2019. The Douglas Street Priority Lanes are expected to be fully complete by early November.

Motion by Mayor Finall and seconded by Mayor Tait to RECEIVE the update for information.

CARRIED

15. ATAC UPDATE – for INFORMATION

David Guthrie

The August 27, 2018 ATAC minutes were distributed for review.

Motion by Mayor Desjardins and seconded by Mayor Tait to RECEIVE the minutes for information.

CARRIED

16. 2019/20 MEETING SCHEDULE – for APPROVAL

Brian Anderson

Meeting dates were proposed for 2019 and 2020.

Motion by Mayor Desjardins and seconded by Mayor Tait to APPROVE the schedule as presented.

CARRIED

17. CORRESPONDENCE

a) City of Victoria - Late Night Bus Service

b) Town of View Royal - Service to the Casino

Motion by Mayor Finall and seconded by Mayor Tait to RECEIVE the correspondence.
CARRIED

ADJOURNAMENT

Motion by Mayor Tait and seconded by Mayor Desjardins to ADJOURN

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for December 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.