

Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)

BC Transit 520 Gorge Road East
October 7, 2024 | 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

The Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee conducts its business on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

Committee Members Present:

Chris Brennen, Kelsey Highsted, Suzan Jennings (*Vice-Chair*), Mohan Kang, Don Monsour (*Chair*), Tricia Pokorny, Jerry Wang

BC Transit:

Chelsea Mossey, Senior Manager, Government Relations; Adam Bishop, Manager, Accessible Transit; Stephen Anderson, General Manager, Victoria Regional Transit System; Cara Weirmier, Executive Assistant and Divisional Coordinator-Operations (*Recorder*)

Regrets:

Isabel Sommerville

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Don Monsour called the meeting to order at 4.17 p.m.

Motion MOVED by S. Jennings and SECONDED by M. Kang to APPROVE the agenda with the addition of #17b: Victoria handyDART representative attendance at ATAC meetings.

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 2024

Motion MOVED by M.Kang and SECONDED by J. Wang to APPROVE the minutes with the addition to #4, materials provided and the presenter to be invited to a future meeting to discuss further.

CARRIED

3. ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Looking forward to working with members of ATAC to make a difference and advocate for those living with disabilities in the Victoria Transit region.

5. BC TRANSIT REMARKS

STEPHEN ANDERSON

BC Transit, from Victoria's perspective, has been working on gaining a better understanding of the use of handyDART, as well as the impact of floating bus stops on the ridership.

Victoria has delivered a strong service even though there has been a lot of construction around the region. Ridership is continuing to rise, and with that there has been a rise in pass-ups. Service is at 99% service delivered but of course the goal is 100% which is what the system is striving for.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – FOR INFORMATION

None

7. DELEGATIONS

None

8. RESEARCH HOW OTHER TRANSIT SYSTEMS ADDRESS SERVING VISUALLY IMPAIRED RIDERS – ACTION FROM JULY MEETING

STEPHEN ANDERSON

No update at this time.

C.Brennan motions to have a more fulsome conversation at a future meeting, early in the new year, and invite CNIB and Brian Patterson from Urban Systems to speak further to floating bus stops. SECONDED by T.Pokorny

CARRIED

9. NEXTRIDE SYSTEM ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGES – ACTION FROM JULY MEETING

STEPHEN ANDERSON

Actioned and completed. There is now a looping announcement on buses in Victoria, and throughout the Province reminding passengers to give access to the accessible seats to those who require them

10. FORWARD PASSED MOTION (ITEM 8.A FEBRUARY 2024) TO VICTORIA REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION (VRTC) AS PART OF THE VICTORIA REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (VRTS) REPORT – ACTION FROM JULY MEETING

STEPHEN ANDERSON

This motion was in relation to a poster on the route 3 and 10 buses. C. Brennan will draft a letter to the Commission about having BC Transit create a similar BC Transit branded poster.

11. PRESENTATION FROM TRAVEL TRAINING PROVIDER – ACTION FROM JULY MEETING

ADAM BISHOP

Deferred to future meeting.

12. FLOATING BUS STOP VISIT UPDATE

SIMON BUTTON

Simon unfortunately was unable to attend, but this topic will be added to the meeting dedicated to visually impaired riders (see item #8 and motion).

13. 2025 ATAC MEETING SCHEDULE – FOR APPROVAL
CARA WEIRMIER

Motion MOVED by C.Brennan and SECONDED by J.Wang to APPROVED the four dates presented, with the addition of two more meeting dates for a total of six meetings per annum.

CARRIED

14. ATAC MEMBERSHIP REVIEW UPDATE – FOR APPROVAL
STEPHEN ANDERSON

There are ATAC member terms expiring in February 2025 (two expired in February 2024). The process will begin for finding new members. BC Transit will advertise and collect applications. The Chair and Vice-Chair will review and make recommendations to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission for the most suitable candidates.

Two members, Chair D. Monsour and Vice Chair S. Jennings, are both coming up on the end of their maximum terms. An amendment to the Charter allowing for the extension of terms will be discussed at the February 2025 ATAC meeting and sent to the Commission for approval.

15. FREE handyDART – FOR DISCUSSION
STEPHEN ANDERSON

16. handyDART PASS AVAILABILITY – FOR DISCUSSION

Motion MOVED by C.Brennan and SECONDED by T.Pokorny to dedicate the next meeting to items #15 and #16.

CARRIED

17. 2023/24 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY: VICTORIA HANDYDART – FOR INFORMATION
ADAM BISHOP

- The 2023/24 Annual Performance Summary for custom transit (handyDART) in the VRTS was distributed to the members for discussion.
 - Victoria handyDART operating company attendance at ATAC meetings: as per the ATAC Charter, “a representative from the Victoria handyDART provider, Transdev, will attend scheduled ATAC meetings.” It was noted by Committee members that it has been some time since a Transdev representative has attended and the committee members would like to confirm that they will send someone to future meetings. Adam Bishop will reach out to the Operations Manager to work with TransDev on this.
- a. ATAC Chair, D. Monsour, has been attending regular handyDART facility meetings. He will report back at the next ATAC meeting on the progress of the facility.

18. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

**Motion MOVED by M.Mohan and SECONDED by C. Brennan to ADJOURN at 5:45 p.m.
CARRIED**

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

3:00 p.m. Monday January 8, 2025