

Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)

BC Transit 520 Gorge Road East
February 10, 2025 | 3:00 – 4:30 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:

Alison Cameron, Kelsey Highsted, Suzan Jennings (*Vice-Chair*), Mohan Kang, Don Monsour (*Chair*), Jerry Wang

BC Transit:

Jim Ross, Vice President, Operations and Chief Operating Officer, 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*)

Guests:

Alfiya Battalova, Sherry Cronk, Margarita Jarrin Gonzalez, Jasmine Parr, Jennifer Van Es

Regrets:

Mayor Marie-Terese Little, Mayor Ryan Windsor, Tricia Pokorny

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Don Monsour called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Motion MOVED by M.Kang and SECONDED by K.Highstead to APPROVE the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 7, 2024 AND JANUARY 6, 2025

Motion MOVED by S. Jennings and SECONDED by M.Kang to APPROVE the minutes from October 2024, and January 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

3. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed the new faces at the table as five potential new committee members attended to meet current members and observe an ATAC meeting prior to their interviews scheduled for February 19.

After the interviews, the Chair, Vice-Chair and General Manager of the Victoria Transit System will meet to make their recommendations to fill the current vacancies. Those recommendations will then be sent to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission for final endorsement at their March meeting.

The Chair has requested an orientation meeting to be scheduled once the new members are confirmed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE – FOR INFORMATION

None

5. DELEGATIONS

None

6. TRAVEL TRAINING PROVIDER UPDATE – ACTION FROM JULY MEETING

ADAM BISHOP

The new travel training program began in January 2024, through CBI Health and is in the rebuilding phase. The program is currently doing three to five intakes per week and is working with BC Transit's Safety and Training team when a bus is required for 1:1 training support.

Anyone can call BC Transit and request help with learning the conventional transit system or to see if they qualify for the handyDART system (or both).

The process is:

- Intake through CBI
- One to three sessions with a travel trainer to learn routes
- Follow-up from the consultant to see how the rider is making out on their own using the system

Group training is also available which can be used at seniors facilities etc., and training is not limited to those who use mobility aids.

FOR ACTION: Suzan Jennings has volunteered to try the new travel training system with CBI and will report back to the committee at a future meeting.

7. ATAC CHARTER REVIEW – DEFERRED TO MAY MEETING

8. handyDART FACILITY UPDATE

CHELSEA MOSSEY

In late March or early April there will be tours and grand opening/open house scheduled for the new facility. The building will be Rick Hansen Certified for accessibility needs and is aiming to be LEED Gold certified. This project has also involved a successful stream revitalization program.

Front reception and training facility will be equipped with hearing loops and braille on the signage, as will the Provincial Distribution Centre.

There is a newsletter that gives updates on the facility.

FOR ACTION: Chelsea will send the video the project team produced to the committee members, and will coordinate a separate tour of the facility for ATAC.

9. HANDYDART ATTENDANCE AT ATAC MEETINGS

ADAM BISHOP

William Davey is no longer with Victoria handyDART. Brianne Reda, the Assistant General Manager, is currently acting in the role. Once Transdev hires a new person to permanently fill the role there will be someone assigned to attend the ATAC meetings.

10. OVERVIEW OF ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT MANAGER ROLE

ADAM BISHOP

Adam is the conduit between ATAC and BC Transit for all things accessibility.

Adam's contact information will be added to the minutes so members can reach out to him directly with any concerns or suggestions

Adam Bishop, Manager Accessible Transit
email abishop@bctransit.com

11. HANDYDART PAYMENT OPTIONS - DISCUSSION

SUZAN JENNINGS

12. TAXI SAVERS – DISCUSSION

SUZAN JENNINGS

M. Kang has invited Heather Stewart, Executive Director, Passenger Transportation Board (PTB) to speak with the committee at a future meeting regarding Taxi Saver being open to all taxi companies. Yellow Cab previously pulled out of agreements with BC Transit for both the Taxi Saver and Taxi Supplement program. There was a bill of rights outside of Metro Vancouver stating that no one could be denied access to transportation due to a disability.

Billing times were the initial issue. The payment times have been decreased to within one month; however, Yellow Cab has been unwilling to revisit the agreement.

13. YELLOW CAB – FOR DISCUSSION

SUZAN JENNINGS

A new subcommittee will be created to brainstorm ways to entice Yellow Cab to return to the Taxi Saver program, and to research partnering with social programs to provide taxi savers to persons requiring transportation to medical appointments etc.

Proposed committee members: Suzan Jennings (to Chair), Alison Cameron, Jerry Wang, Mohan Kang and BC Transit representatives Adam Bishop and Chelsea Mossey.

14. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion MOVED by M.Mohan and SECONDED by J.Wang to ADJOURN at 4:31 p.m.

CARRIED

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

3:00 p.m. Monday May 12, 2025