

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ATAC)

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

BC TRANSIT BOARDROOM, VICTORIA

Attendance

Members:	Marnie Essery (Chair), Pat Danforth (Co-Chair), Jan Robertson, Terri Beaton, Meg Sylvester, Virve Demuth, Chris Marks and Susan Gallagher
Regrets:	Councillor Marianne Alto, Mike Low, Colin Whyte, Mohan Kang, Joanne Neubauer
Supplemental Members/Staff	Shawn Ridout, Susan Sowden, Mary Kay Kennedy, David Guthrie, Amy Gemmill (recorder)

	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>Marnie Essery (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor Alto will not be attending due to other commitments.</p> <p>Introductions were made around the table</p>
1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm</p> <p>Approved Minutes from April 9, 2013 & September 3, 2013</p>
2.	<p>Priority Seating Policy – Marianne Alto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled: to be discussed at the next ATAC Meeting
3.	<p>Hillside Mall Accessibility – Shawn Ridout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper signage has been put up at the Hillside Mall bus stop • Route 8: no longer will service bus stop on Shelbourne south of Hillside, as per Safety & Training. A new stop has been placed on North Dairy for route 8
4.	<p>Royal Oak Exchange Update – Shawn Ridout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shawn provided an update – no additional funding has been made available this year. Within the funding they will be putting in thermal plastic – pavement marking material. The marking in that area will be improved and hopefully more permanent. Other than that, nothing available for 13-14 fiscal. They will keep campaigning for this project. Michael Pearson is the contact. • Pat and Shawn – letter to Ministry of Transportation regarding accessible issues in the area • Dave to look to see if there should only be one #6 stop at Royal Oak Exchange as this can be confusing for people trying to make connections

5.	Online Communications Project - Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 2 handout was provided (Overview) • Marnie's email containing suggestions for the Online Communications Project handed out to the committee
6.	Nominations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for interest for ATAC went out via email and was placed in local newspapers • Shawn will locate nomination matrix used for committee selection and send to members • ATAC is hoping to nominate people in different diversity groups, especially youth representation
7.	Meeting Dates for 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a tentative date for first meeting in 2014 – March 11, 2014 • Will discuss the remainder of 2014 meetings after the official committee is in place
8.	New Business
	<p>A) What time is rush hour? Terri from Victoria Epilepsy & Parkinson's Center</p> <p>I. Dave stated that rush hour is typically between 6:30am – 9:15am and 1:45pm – 6:00pm</p> <p>B) More access / service to handyDart?</p> <p>I. It is estimated that in Sept 2014 handyDart will receive more buses. This will result in an extra 6-7 passengers being picked up hourly.</p> <p>a. Funding processes are currently underway with the Victoria Regional Transit Commission. They will determine final funding approvals</p> <p>II. A report around handyDART pickups, ride times, types of rides etc. was requested. BC Transit Staff will look into this for the next meeting and update the committee then</p> <p>C) On route 61, low floor buses are often being used instead of double deckers. The committee wanted to know why this is occurring</p> <p>I. Committee members stated that buses are passing up full in both directions when a low floor is used</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. Dave stated that due to the demand on the fleet and increases in ridership, no quick solution will be in place. BC Transit remains committed to getting everyone on the buses and try's to not leave people on the side of the road. This, at times, requires double deckers to be strategically placed on other routes due to the demand. It will be an estimated 6 months before improvement may be seen on route 61 III. BC Transit buses are at their capacity during peak service hours, as there are only a specific number and types of buses in the fleet IV. Dave noted that total ridership is up 5% in October over last year which places considerable pressure on the peak service capacity V. New double deckers will most likely be added to the fleet upon approval of budgets (approx. 18 months to arrive, after order date)
	<p>D) Update: HandyDart Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Province wide area served II. Status: no update on report / pilot project being conducted in two areas
	<p>E) Community Shuttle Buses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Route 10 changed to operate with Arboc buses – reported by a few passengers it feels steep when boarding. II. Dave will look in to this
	<p>F) Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Marne Essery (Chair) last official meeting on the committee. Marne will still be very involved with BC Transit in her upcoming projects; also will assist Shawn going through ATAC Committee Applications in the New Year

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm

Next meeting: March 11, 2014