

**Victoria Regional Transit Commission
Minutes of the Meeting - APPROVED
Held at BC Transit
520 Gorge Road East
Tuesday, August 13, 2019
9:00 AM**

PRESENT: Councillor Susan Brice, Chair
Councillor Sharmarke Dubow
Mayor Fred Haynes
Mayor Lisa Helps
Mayor Rob Martin
Mayor Kevin Murdoch
Mayor Geoff Orr
Mayor Maja Tait
Juliet Watts, student representative (*non-voting*)

BC TRANSIT STAFF: Brian Anderson, Vice President Operations & Chief Operating Officer
Matthew Boyd, Director, Corporate and Strategic Planning
Jonathon Dyck, Communications Manager
Megan Hill, Director, Budgeting and Forecasting
Kevin Schubert, *acting* General Manager, Victoria Regional Transit
Lindsay Taylor, Senior Transit Planner
James Wadsworth, Planning Manager
Cara Weirmier, Executive Assistant (*Recorder*)

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Susan Brice called the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m.

Motion by Mayor Martin and seconded by Mayor Helps to allow extra last-minute delegations to speak

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 25, 2019

Motion by Mayor Tait and seconded by Mayor Helps to approve the minutes with the correction to delegation 5g to read “...Climate Youth Strike, which takes place the first Friday of every month”

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Orr attended the Central Saanich Committee of the Whole, as per their request. The Notice of Motion in agenda item 6c and letter from Central Saanich in agenda item 12 reflect outcomes of that meeting.

4. CHAIR’S REMARKS

5. DELEGATIONS

Ravi Parmar – Chair, School District 62

Request from the Sooke school district to have increased service and improved service to meet the demand of the fastest growing district in the province, and to support the district’s 1,700 employees.

6. MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

a) Elimination of fees (in three parts)

- 1) That the Transit Commission direct staff to develop a pilot project to eliminate user fees for some riders in the 2020-2021 budget year.

Motion by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Dubow

Motion to amend to read *“That the Transit Commission direct staff to develop a pilot program to eliminate user fees for youth 18 and under in the 2021-2022 budget year”*

Motion by Mayor Helps and seconded by Councillor Dubow

Motion by Mayor Orr and seconded by Mayor Helps to table the motion in its entirety until after agenda item 9

CARRIED

b) Urge the federal parties to fund operation budgets

Motion by Mayor Helps and seconded by Councillor Dubow for staff to work with the Chair to write to all federal parties, removing the words “if elected” and removing some of the “whereas” clauses

CARRIED

c) Increase in service for route 75

Motion by Mayor Orr and seconded by Mayor Tait to APPROVE

CARRIED

7. FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY – for INFORMATION

(Megan Hill)

Revenue is over budget for year-end and the local contribution is projected to under for the year. The operations budget is under budget due to timing of projects and lower fuel costs. Service hours are 2000 below budgeted, but that is due to the time of year.

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

CARRIED

8. PLANNING UPDATE – for INFORMATION

(Lindsay Taylor)

Ridership continues to rise, seeing a 31 per cent increase in the Westshore, a 19 per cent increase on the Peninsula and a 20 per cent increase in the downtown core. BC Transit continues to plan for population growth in the Greater Victoria region.

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

CARRIED

9. FARE-FREE TRANSIT FOR GREATER VICTORIA YOUTH – for INFORMATION

(Ryan Dennis)

Motion by Mayor Helps and seconded by Councillor Dubow to direct staff to pursue funding partners and develop a business case, to include a pilot project to provide fare-free transit for youth in the 2021/22 budget year.

DEFEATED

Motion by Councillor Dubow to direct staff to ask the Province for the four million dollars needed for fare-free transit for youth in the CRD

No seconder, DEFEATED

Mayor Helps enters into the record a petition of support for fare-free service

Motion by Mayor Haynes and seconded by Mayor Murdoch to lift motion 6a in its entirety back to the table

- 1) Replaced by Mayor Helps motion in agenda item 9 that has been defeated**
- 2) Amended to remove the first line to:** *“including the costs of enhanced service levels, enhanced transit priority including an extensive network of bus lanes, and fleet expansion to meet increased demand, fleet electrification and the necessary infrastructure to accommodate new buses.”*

DEFEATED

- 3) Withdrawn by Mayor Helps**

10. OPERATIONS UPDATE - for INFORMATION

(James Wadsworth)

An update on service and routes within the Victoria Region. Key initiatives, including NextRide and automated vehicle locators, have received positive feedback from customers.

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

CARRIED

11. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – for INFORMATION

(Matthew Boyd)

An update on the strategic plan for the Victoria Region and next steps.

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

CARRIED

12. CORRESPONDENCE – for INFORMATION

Motion by Mayor Tait and seconded by Mayor Martin to RECEIVE the correspondence as submitted

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN by Mayor Murdoch and seconded by Mayor Orr

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for November 5, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.