

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Video/Conference Call (**TEAMS**)

Minutes (UNAPPROVED)

For June 26, 2023 3:30-5pm

1	<p>Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 3:36pm</p>		Chair
2	<p>Confirmation of Quorum (5 voting members required)</p> <p>Committee members present : D. Monsour (Chair), S. Jennings (Vice-Chair), K. Highsted, M. Kang, C. Brennan, J. Wang, D. Young, and T. Pokorny</p> <p>Regrets: I. Sommerville</p> <p>BC Transit Staff: K. Armstrong, S. Stevens, R. Drake, S. Exton</p> <p>handyDART Staff: B. Davies</p> <p>.</p>	Confirmed	Chair
3	<p>Approval of the Agenda Moved by S. Jennings and Seconded by J. Wang to accept Agenda. Motion Carried.</p>	Approved	Chair
4	<p>Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2023 Moved by K. Highsted and Seconded by J. Wang to approve Minutes. Motion Carried.</p>	Approved	Chair
5	<p>Chair's Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome to new Committee candidates - Thank you for being willing to share your time and experience - Wonderful to see new faces around the table - Reminder to all that ATAC provides advice and feedback to the VRTS, but does not set policy or direction - Please respect one another, our time and comments - An authorization form to share personal e-mail addresses with BC Transit and Committee Members for the purposes of ATAC was distribute for Committee Members to sign 	For Info	Chair
6	<p>Presentation and Tour – Battery Electric Bus</p> <p>BC Transit staff provided Committee with a presentation on the Battery Electric Bus (BEB) project and a tour of the demonstration BEB</p> <p>Highlights of the presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 electric buses will be coming to the VRTS in September - Range for the buses will be 350-500km per charge - 100% electric, 99.8% environmentally friendly - Accessibility was an important consideration in deciding which bus to purchase 	For Info	BC Transit Staff – Shane Exton, Project Manager, Fleet Capital Projects and Ryan Drake Project Manager, Low Carbon Fleet, Electrification Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BEB will have anti-tip stanchions, ramps and bus will tilt to provide additional accessibility - New handyDART facility is being built to accommodate a totally electric fleet in the future 		
<p>7. Action Items from Previous Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Monsour, S. Jennings and S. Stevens will meet before next meeting to discuss ways ATAC can support the Taxi Saver program with Yellow Cab <p>UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern is that Yellow Cab has pulled out of Taxi Saver program; however Yellow Cab has the biggest fleet of accessible vehicles - BC Transit sent a letter to Yellow Cab asking them to reconsider and meet with BC Transit to address the company's concerns - BC Transit has re-written the Taxi Saver contract to address the concerns of the taxi industry - BC Transit staff member S. Steven is still trying to meet with Yellow Cab in person to discuss - <u>ACTION:</u> Committee Member M. Kang is a representative of the BC Taxi Association and will reach out to Yellow Cab to see if a meeting between BC Transit and Yellow Cab can be scheduled 		
<p>8. Standing Item</p>			
	<p>handyDART Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - W. Davey, GM of Victoria HandyDART service, provided a report - Transition to the new operating company, TRANS DEV, has been going well; new company understands custom transit and are being thoughtful with transition - Victoria is the busiest handyDART city in BC and is the most successful in pandemic recovery with respect to pre-pandemic service levels - Recently received a new bus with electric assist to help passengers up the ramp; this feature will be included in all new buses - Chair thanked W. Davey for report and asked if any Committee members had any questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o S. Jennings asked how the hiring of new drivers was progressing as 3 Committee members tried to book service for today but service was booked 	<p>For Info</p>	<p>W. Davey – GM, Victoria handyDART</p>

- W. Davey replied: 3 new drivers were on the road last month and 2 trainees have recently started; important to get the right type of person for the role
 - Is taking longer to be able to schedule Class 4 ICBC road tests which delays hiring
 - Confirmed handyDART is very motivated to get more drivers and meet service demand
 - K. Highsted advised W. Davey that they had not contacted handyDART staff yet to discuss the challenges with the website
 - W. Davey replied: Website is being used more and more to book and cancel trips; Victoria only city in BC to have this on-line

Custom Transit Updates Report

- Customer surveys
 - BC Transit contracts a company to do annual survey and would like to know if Committee Members would like to be contacted about the survey or if they had any ideas about questions that should be asked
 - Committee Members advised that they would like to be contacted
 - ACTION: K. Armstrong will share Committee Members' email address with S. Stevens (COMPLETED – 2023 AUG 04)
- Accessible transit presentations
 - In person presentations to community agencies have been initiated; a recent presentation was conducted at the Shoal Centre in Sidney
 - Organizations can contact S. Stevens to schedule a presentation
 - When possible, buses are brought to the location
 - These presentations are in addition to and separate from the Travel Training program that is now being conducted by CBI
 - This program is a 1:1 opportunity for people with accessible challenges to learn how to use the conventional system
- BC Transit Website Review
 - It has been noted that handyDART info is difficult to find on the current BC Transit/VRTS website, so how to improve this access is being reviewed
 - K. Highsted suggested linking the on-line booking system to the website
 - S. Stevens reported that with the new custom registration process, there is no longer the requirement for documentation from a Dr.

For Info

S. Stevens –
Senior Regional
Transit Manager
(BCT)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dispatch software <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A review and possible re-vamp of the handyDART website has been started; looking for a provincial system 		
8	New Business		
	<p>New Electronic Fare Collection System (EFCS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - K. Armstrong provided an update on the launch of UMO. Highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Only fares loaded on the UMO re-loadable card and mobile app (available on Google Play App Store) will initially be used o Pilot project has been invaluable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ J. Wang reported that he was a community member who was part of the pilot project o Launch scheduled for sometime in August 2023 o UMO has its own website and customer service phone number if riders have any challenges with the application <p>Review of ATAC Charter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - K. Armstrong advised Committee Members that a copy of the ATA Charter had been attached to today's agenda package and that the Charter was a guide on how ATAC conducts its business and its purpose - S. Jennings asked if the Charter could be amended to include the assignment of a VRTC member to attend ATAC meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o K. Armstrong advised that any changes to the Charter would need to be discussed by ATAC and then a recommendation would need to be sent to VRTC for their approval <p>Scheduling of 2023 Committee Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee Members confirmed that Mondays, 3:30-5pm worked for everyone's schedule - Hybrid meetings would be appreciated as sometimes transportation to BC Transit office is a challenge - It was agreed that the final 2 meetings of the year will be scheduled for September 18 and December 4, 2023 	For Info	K. Armstrong (BCT Staff)
9	Review of New Action Items from current meeting	For Info and Follow Up	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M. Kang will reach out to Yellow Cab and determine if they or who would like to meet with BC Transit about their participation in the Taxi Saver program - S. Stevens will provide the revenue value for taxi companies who are participating in the Taxi Saver Program - K. Armstrong will send an e-mail to Committee Members asking them to send any ideas about survey questions or locations for accessible transportation presentations for forwarding to S. Stevens (COMPLETED 2023 AUG 04) 		

10	Adjournment Moved by M. Kang and Seconded by Jerry Wang to adjourn meeting. Motion Carried. Next Meeting: 2023 September 18 (Hybrid – in person and TEAMS)		
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