

Victoria Regional Transit Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Held at BC Transit  
520 Gorge Road East  
Tuesday, April 16, 2013  
9:00 am

**PRESENT:** Councillor Susan Brice, Chair  
Mayor Dean Fortin  
Mayor Carol Hamilton  
Mayor Barbara Desjardins  
Councillor Marianne Alto  
Mayor Larry Cross  
Mayor Frank Leonard

**BC TRANSIT STAFF:** Manuel Achadinha, President & CEO  
Mike Kohl, VP & CFO  
Erinn Pinkerton, Director of Corporate & Strategic Planning  
Rory Kulmala, Manager Fixed Asset Construction  
Dave Guthrie, General Manager Victoria Operations  
Meribeth Burton, Corporate Spokesperson  
Linda Moss, *Recorder*

**OPEN SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 9 am by Chair Susan Brice.

**MOVED BY MAYOR DESJARDINS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR CROSS** that the agenda be **APPROVED** with the addition of a verbal report on DND service.

**CARRIED**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY MAYOR DESJARDINS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR HAMILTON** that the minutes of February 19th meeting be **APPROVED** as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

None raised.

**4. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair congratulated staff on the success of the Customer Appreciation Day held Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a very great event with positive feedback from both customers and operators. Meribeth has prepared a video of the event and will forward to the Commission members.

The Craigflower bridge situation may generate some letters of concern. BC Transit is monitoring the situation closely and meeting with the Community Association.

The Chair noted that CRD Director Fortin had requested comments on the CRD Transit Governance Review Report from the Commission. A meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the BC Transit offices with Doug Caul, ADM for MOTI. Commission members may attend should they choose to do so. If unable to attend the meeting but do have questions you would like raised, please forward them to the Chair.

## 5. TRANSIT PRIORITY REPORT

Staff stated that the Transit Priority planning project implementation is key to achieving the goals in the Transit Future Plan for the Victoria region and the region's Travel Choices Strategy. As directed by the Commission, staff has been working with municipal staff to develop a plan to provide transit priority on Douglas, McKenzie and the Island Highway which is View Royal to Colwood. A number of options have been developed over the last several months. Each corridor had a detailed analysis performed to identify possible cost-effective short term infrastructure strategy options that would provide both the great value in transit support and that could have timely implementation. This evaluation helped to clarify both the impacts and benefits including:

- Financial
- Transportation
- Social
- Community
- Environmental

Based on the analysis, further consultation has been identified on the following concepts:

- Douglas – dedicated bus lanes during peak periods
- McKenzie – queue jumper lanes at key intersections
- Island Highway – queue jumper lanes at key intersections

Options were outlined for all three concepts. The evaluations included:

- Time saved per bus
- Impacts to pedestrians and bike facilities
- Traffic diversions if applicable
- Parking impacts
- Support of community plans
- Physical impacts to the corridors
- GHG effects
- Cost and benefit impacts

This report can be viewed at <http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/news/commission/pdf/cmtg-ri-788.pdf>.

Next in the process will be to provide the technical analysis to the CRD Planning Technical and Protective Services Committee and Board, the City of Victoria, District of Saanich, City of Colwood and the Town of View Royal in May. Following this the public consultation will take place. The Chair noted that the public consultation should happen prior to the Commission meeting in June. It was noted that the final report will be presented at the June Commission meeting.

When a question was raised regarding what improvements could be expected staff noted that is hard to gauge but for an example, when Kelowna implemented rapid bus lanes, the first year showed a 7-8% improvement in time and by the third year the improvement reached 15%. There was also a 9% increase in ridership along the corridor in the first year.

The Chair noted Municipal and Transit staff are working well together and have done a tremendous amount of work.

Inquiries were made regarding all door loading as well as the possibility of adding bus passes to existing parking kiosks on Douglas Street. Staff was asked to provide information on these items at the June Commission meeting.

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO AND SECONDED BY MAYOR DESJARDINS** that the Transit Priority Report be received **FOR INFORMATION** and that staff would include information updates at the June Commission meeting regarding all door loading and the possibility of adding bus passes to the parking kiosks on Douglas Street.

**CARRIED**

**DND UPDATE** (added to the agenda as requested)

Staff informed the Commission that BC Transit has been monitoring the service on routes related to this area for the last year.

Mayor Desjardins noted that the Admiral has invited all Mayors in the region to the Firehall on May 7<sup>th</sup> for a half-day discussion on transportation and the value of it in the region. Attendance is encouraged.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING MOVED BY MAYOR LEONARD AND SECONDED BY MAYOR CROSS.**

**CARRIED**

**MEETING ADJOURNED– 10:13 am.**