

Victoria Regional Transit Commission
 Minutes of the Meeting
 Held at BC Transit
 520 Gorge Road East
 Tuesday, June 12, 2012
 9:30 am

PRESENT:	Councillor Susan Brice, Chair	
	Mayor Dean Fortin	
	Mayor Carol Hamilton	
	Mayor Barbara Desjardins	
	Councillor Marianne Alto	
	Mayor Larry Cross	
Regrets	Mayor Frank Leonard	
BC TRANSIT STAFF:	Erinn Pinkerton, Director of Corporate & Strategic Planning Emily Watson, Senior Planner James Wadsworth, Senior Planner Jonathan Norgaard, Director Finance Mike Davis, VP & COO Dave Guthrie, General Manager, Victoria Operations Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO Mike Kohl, VP & CFO Meribeth Burton, Corporate Spokesperson Linda Moss, <i>Recorder</i>	

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chair, Susan Brice.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO AND MAYOR DESJARDINS that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY MAYOR FORTIN AND MAYOR CROSS that the minutes of the May 8th meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

None

4. Chair's Remarks

None

5. 2011/12 Financial and Performance Report

Staff presented the 2011/12 Financial Report which noted that the rising cost of fuel was the number one issue faced by BC Transit during fiscal 2011/12 but despite this challenge, other savings were generated throughout the year in maintenance and administration that helped offset this increase. Other items included:

- Strong passenger and fuel tax revenues helped reduce the anticipated local contribution requirement by 8% compared to budget
- Passenger revenues were 4% higher than budget due to the impact of the change in transfer policy combined with higher revenues from monthly passes, UPASS and tickets
- Year over year ridership grew by 0.4% despite a reduction in service hours
- Operations expenditures were 3% higher than budget primarily due to higher fuel costs

Victoria continues to perform strongly when compared with CUTA benchmarks for its peer group. BC Transit is exceeding its peer groups with respect to performance on conventional service. The Chair noted that compared to other similar systems we compare favourably in CUTA data. The Chair represented the Commission at the recent CUTA conference held in Victoria and Victoria system was spoken of very favourably. Others across the country feel that BC Transit and the Commission are doing a good job. BC Transit and its staff are regarded as leaders.

Discussion followed regarding what is included in CUTA benchmarks data. It was noted that FCM at UBCM both quote CUTA data. Staff confirmed that it is comparable data in terms of vehicles and populations.

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission received this report **for information.**

CARRIED

6. Planning Update

Staff presented an update of planning activities in the following areas:

New Operational Service Issues

- Hillside Mall

New Planning Initiatives

- Transit Priority Studies
- Service Review
- Three-Year Service & Financial Strategy
- Facilities Master Plan

Upcoming Service Changes

- Service Planning
- On-going Infrastructure Planning**
- Douglas Street Transit Signal Priority
- BC Transit Shelter Program

Details of these updates can be found in report located on our website at:
<http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/news/commission/pdf/cmtg-ri-736.pdf>

MOVED BY MAYOR HAMILTON AND SECONDED BY MAYOR FORTIN to receive this report for information.

CARRIED

7. Transit Service Review Terms of Reference

Staff presented the Transit Service Review Terms of Reference which is the outcome of the Transit Future Plan input. The Transit Service Review will ensure the Victoria Regional system is as efficient as possible. The Terms of Reference will guide the process, give an understanding of milestones, where there are quick wins are and the linkages to the transit priority plan. In future, expansion will not be recommended without consulting the service review. Discussion followed regarding how to determine coverage vs efficiencies as well as how to ensure transit is included earlier in planning discussions for new developments.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO AND SECONDED BY MAYOR HAMILTON to approve the Terms of Reference for the Victoria Conventional Service Review.

CARRIED

8. 3 Year Service and Financial Strategy

Staff presented this report to outline the proposed expansion scenarios, along with a draft based budget for comment prior to the production of the draft plan. Draft expansion scenarios were offered for comment.

Staff was requested to ensure the report on the September 11th agenda includes a projected transit levy increase with each scenario offered as well as a timeline if fares are to be increased.

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission received this report for information.

CARRIED

9. 2013/14 Bus Acquisition

Staff presented draft options for 2013/14 conventional bus acquisition to secure intent from partners around a level of comfort to look at expansion in future years. Vehicles must be purchased by BC Transit by July of 2012 in order to ensure the timely delivery of vehicles to facilitate implementation for 2013/14 expansion. It takes 18 months from order to delivery of a conventional bus. The Victoria system will be limited in September 2013 for expansion if new vehicles are not acquired by July 2012. In the past there were replacement orders and retirement of vehicles could be extended. Pass ups would be mitigated with the purchase of 2 vehicles.

Discussion followed around the difficulty of making a decision of the acquisition of vehicles so far in advance and without the results of the service review.

However, the Commission felt that at a minimum it needed to support the introduction of 2 additional buses for 2013/14.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO AND SECONDED BY MAYOR HAMILTON approve recommendation to request BC Transit to acquire a) Scenario 1 – 5,000 hours (2 vehicles).

CARRIED

Opposed: Mayor Desjardins

10. Adjournment

MOVED BY MAYOR FORTIN AND COUNCILLOR ALTO that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:04 AM