

Victoria Regional Transit Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Held at BC Transit  
520 Gorge Road East  
Thursday, May 8, 2012  
9:30 am

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

**REGRETS:** Mayor Frank Leonard  
Mayor Larry Cross

**BC TRANSIT STAFF:** Erinn Pinkerton, Director of Corporate & Strategic Planning  
Rory Kulmala, Manager Fixed Asset Construction  
James Wadsworth, Senior Planner  
Mike Davis, VP & COO  
Dave Guthrie, General Manager, Victoria Operations  
Linda Moss, *Recorder*

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

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO AND MAYOR FORTIN** that the minutes of the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting be approved with an update that Councillor Alto volunteered to be the Commission liaison to the ATAC committee.

**CARRIED**

**3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

None raised.

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Brice welcomed everyone in attendance. Discussion followed the more natural alignment of the Transportation Committee meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to meet with the Minister's Panel on

Transit Review. The Chair is not part of this committee but will have a meeting through the BC Transit Board meeting already. The Chair left it up to members whether or not this will work for them. The members agreed. Mike Davis will advise the panel. The Chair stated that she and Mayor Fortin attended APTA in Portland recently and felt there was a lot of valuable information gained on the trip. The Chair noted that there downtown travel is free and that contributes to the number of riders being so high.

Mayor Fortin noted that the Streetcar Line was designed to move people around the downtown and that therefore there are not a lot of cars.

#### 5. Delegation

Mr. Jon Blair stated that there are overcrowding issues on the #81 bus between Sidney and Brentwood particularly on weekends with high Ferry travel experience. He asked that staff consider capacity of #81 bus.

Staff noted that the route will be examined. This route may warrant higher capacity community buses being developed by BC Transit for implementation in 2013/14.

Chair Brice requested that staff discuss the issues further with Mr. Blair.

#### 6. Ticket Assistance Program Request

Staff presented background of the substantial growth of the BC Transit Ticket Assistance Program and that this growth continues to increase. A contributor to the increase is attributed to the change in transfer policy requiring two tickets for clients when, in the past, one might have sufficed. A further factor affecting this trend includes increased need due to agencies adding transportation, purchased through this program, into their budgets.

**MOVED BY MAYOR FORTIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO** that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission approve an increased allocation to 135,000 tickets and 1,500 monthly passes to the BC Transit Ticket Assistance Program for the 2012/13 fiscal year.

**CARRIED**

#### 7. Rugby Canada Request

Staff presented the request from Rugby Canada to support their organization with on-going transit passes for their athletes who have transferred to the new Langford facility. BC Transit does not have a current policy to offer discount passes to athletic groups/social groups.

Discussion followed noting that while members are supportive of the intent it would not be wise to do this as a one-of. It was stated that there are other programs already in place that might address their needs.

**MOVED BY MAYOR DESJARDINS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR FORTIN** that request from Rugby Canada to provide on-going passes for their athletes be declined.

**CARRIED**

## **8. Transit Priority Planning**

Rory Kulmala, Manager Fixed Asset Construction was invited to speak to this item on the agenda as he is in charge of this program. Staff presented an update of the workplan for the Transit Priority planning and requirements within the Capital Region including the selected corridors, and associated budget.

**MOVED BY MAYOR FORTIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO** to advance transit priority initiatives in the region by providing approval:

- to proceed with selected top five priorities/corridors as the scope of this project.
- of the commission share of the budget as outlined to be funded from the VRTC Transit Fund.

It is agreed that this report will be forwarded to MoTI and impacted municipalities seeking their support and partnership in the development of these studies with BC Transit.

**CARRIED**

## **9. Planning Update**

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

### **New Operational Service Issues**

- Service to DND
- Craigflower Bridge Replacement
- New Planning Initiatives
- Transit Priority Studies
- Service Review
- Upcoming Planning Activities
- Service Planning for the remainder of 2012

### **On-going Operational Service Issues**

- HandyDART
- On-going Service Planning Initiatives
- CRD Regional Transportation Plan
- Spencer Interchange
- On-going Infrastructure Planning
- Douglas Street Transit signal Priority
- BC Transit Shelter Program
- UVIC Campus Transit Plan
- Hwy 17 Corridor Planning Study
- Saanich Shelbourne Corridor Study
- Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Project
- Operations and Maintenance Facility

Details of these updates can be found in report located on our website at:  
<http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/news/commission/pdf/cmtg-ri730.pdf>

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

**CARRIED**

**10. Correspondence**

**MOVED BY MAYOR FORTIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALTO to receive the correspondence as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**11. Adjournment**

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

**CARRIED**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:45 AM**