
SUBJECT: 2013/14 – Conventional Bus Acquisition

BACKGROUND

BC Transit is required to purchase conventional vehicles for the 2013/14 expansion program by July of 2012 in order to ensure the timely delivery of vehicles to facilitate implementation. Prior to completing the Business Case to purchase these vehicles, BC Transit is seeking a motion or letter of intent to expand from all local funding partners scheduled for 2013/14 service expansions to ensure these new assets are fully utilized.

In September 2012 BC Transit staff will present the Commission with a draft three-year Service and Financial Strategy, associated draft three-year budgets and a draft Fare Strategy. The 2013/14 expansion will be formally approved with the budget at the November 2012 meeting. However, in order to secure conventional vehicles to operate the 2013/14 expansions BC Transit needs to progress with purchasing conventional vehicles prior to formal budgetary approval. Custom vehicles for 2013/14 handyDART expansion do not need to be purchased at this time.

DISCUSSION

Two conventional expansion options for 2013/14 have been developed for the Commission's consideration. Both scenarios are modest to reflect the goal of the Victoria Service Review to identify some cost neutral transit improvements as a part of its "Quick Wins" implementation options.

Option 1 is an expansion of 5,000 hours with 2 additional vehicles and Option 2 is a 10,000 hour expansion with 4 additional vehicles. The approval of 10,000 hours, with 4 new conventional vehicles, would provide the most flexibility to implement service enhancements that could have a meaningful impact on reducing pass-ups.

With the exception of the new buses there are no other infrastructure requirements to support the implementation of these conventional service hours.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission request BC Transit acquire additional heavy duty vehicles to support one of the following 13/14 conventional expansion proposals:

- a) Scenario 1 - 5,000 hours (2 vehicles)
 - b) Scenario 2 – 10,000 hours (4 vehicles)
- or
- c) Base – 0 hours (0 vehicles)

Respectfully,



Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer