

**September 12, 2023**

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**PREPARED FOR:** Victoria Regional Transit Commission Committee

**PURPOSE:**

To provide the Commission with a summary report of the business conducted by the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). This report is presented to the Commission for INFORMATION.

**BACKGROUND:**

The last ATAC meeting was held on June 26, 2023, led by D. Monsour, ATAC Chair.

**DISCUSSION:**

Through the June 26, 2023 meeting, BC Transit staff provided Committee members with a presentation on the Battery Electric Bus (BEB) project, followed by a tour of the demonstration BEB. The presentation included information on the future arrival of 10 electric buses in the VRTS, as well as details about their range capabilities and accessibility features. In particular, the Committee was informed about anti-tip stanchions, ramps and the buses' ability to tilt, which all provide enhanced accessibility. It was highlighted by staff that accessibility was a key consideration in deciding which BEB to purchase. Finally, it was noted the new handyDART facility is being built to accommodate a totally electric fleet in the future.

Discussions continued regarding Yellow Cab's decision to remove itself from BC Transit's Taxi Saver Program<sup>1</sup>, and the impacts this is having on customers. The taxi company removed itself from offering service through this program at the end of 2022. 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.

A review of the ATAC Charter was conducted between staff and Committee members present. Staff reminded Committee members that the ATAC Charter outlines the Committee's purpose and is intended to guide how ATAC conducts its business. Staff also advised the Committee that any changes to the Charter would need to be discussed by ATAC and forwarded as a recommendation to the VRTC for their approval. Members will be reviewing the Charter again during the next meeting.

The Committee plans to hold further meetings in 2023 on September 18 and December 4.

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<sup>1</sup> The Taxi Saver program provides registered handyDART customers with access to taxi vouchers at a 50% discount. Registered customers can purchase up to \$80 of vouchers for \$40 per month. The handyDART customer books their own taxi ride with a participating company.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission RECEIVE the ATAC Update for INFORMATION.

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