

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING
(Committee Of The Whole)

Thursday, March 7, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Tom Greenaway

Directors Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton
Linda McGuire
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Bev Playfair
Jerry Petersen
Gerry Thiessen
Kim Watt-Senner – left at 1:28 p.m.

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers
Absent Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

Alternate Directors Doug Bysouth, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator – arrived 1:48 p.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician/Regional Transit Coordinator
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Linda Berg, Executive Director, Lake Babine Nation – left at 2:06 p.m.
Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach and Business Engagement, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Rob Ringma, Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit

Via Tele-Conference Lara Beckett, Director Electoral Area “C” Chilako River-Nechako, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
John Benedict, General Manager, Saik’uz First Nation
Dave Christi, Economic Development Officer, Village of Fraser Lake
Levi Davis, Takla First Nation – left at 1:15 p.m., returned at 1:20 p.m.
Zoe Dhillon, Special Projects Coordinator, District of Vanderhoof
Debbie Joujan, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Telkwa
Art Kaehn, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
Tiina Schaeffer, Manager of Sustainable Community Development and Transit, City of Prince George

Media Blair McBride, Lakes District News – left at 1:55 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Melany de Weerd, CAO called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

ELECTIONS

Chairperson

Ms. de Weerdt called for nominations for the position of Chairperson for the Regional Transit Committee for the year 2019.

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Parker

RTC.2019-1-1

“That Director Greenaway be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Regional Transit Committee for the year 2019.”

Ms. de Weerdt called for nominations for Chairperson a second time.

Ms. de Weerdt called for nominations for Chairperson a third time.

There being no further nominations, Ms. de Weerdt declared Director Greenaway, Chairperson of the Regional Transit Committee for the year 2019 by acclamation.

Vice-Chairperson

Ms. de Weerdt called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the District Regional Transit Committee for the year 2019.

Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Lambert

RTC.2019-1-2

“That Director Funk be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Transit Committee for the year 2019.

Ms. de Weerdt called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson a second time.

Ms. de Weerdt called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson a third time.

There being no further nominations, Ms. de Weerdt declared Director Funk as Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Transit Committee for the year 2019 by acclamation.

Chair Greenaway assumed the Chair.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director McGuire

RTC. 2019-1-3

“That the Regional Transit Committee Agenda for March 7, 2019 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach and Business Engagement RE: Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan

Chair Greenaway welcomed Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach and Business Engagement, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Ms. Harmon provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Ms. Harmon spoke of the following

- Timeline of the Input, Engagement, Action 2006-2016
- Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan
- Transit Expansion
 - o \$4.2 million commitment – over five years
- Community Transportation Grants
 - o \$2 million commitment – over three years
- First Nations Driver Education
 - o \$400,000 commitment– over three years
- Safety Improvements
 - o \$1.5 million commitment
- Collaboration
- BC Bus North
 - o In 2018 the Province committed to provide service to end of May 2019
 - o BC Bus North Service is being used for its intended purpose as a long haul service
 - o Ridership continues to be strong on BC Transit Inter-Community Service.

Director McGuire encouraged Ms. Harmon and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to continue the Community Transportation Grants. She spoke of the benefits for the Village of Granisle and expressed her appreciation for the funding. Director Thiessen noted the benefits of the program for Vanderhoof and Saik'uz First Nation.

Chair Greenaway thanked Ms. Harmon for attending the meeting.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BC TRANSIT – Rob Ringma, Manager, Government Relations RE: UPDATE

Chair Greenaway welcomed Rob Ringma, Manager Government Relations, BC Transit.

Mr. Ringma provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Mr. Ringma provided an overview regarding:

- Looking Back
 - o Engagement
 - o Considerations and funding
 - o Vehicles and infrastructure
- Ridership
- Collaboration
- Service Considerations.

Director Lambert questioned the current funding model with the Province covering 100% of the capital costs and 2/3 of the operating costs and the five year timeline. Mr. Ringma noted that it is currently for five years and the decision would need to be made by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as to next steps. Ms. Harmon noted that the question has been raised and MoTI is aware of the concerns. She commented that as early as 2020 the funding model will need to be reviewed and a best solution determined moving forward. Ms. Harmon mentioned that the funding question should be asked again moving forward.

DELEGATIONS (CONT'D)

BC TRANSIT – Rob Ringma, Manager, Government Relations RE: UPDATE (CONT'D)

Discussion took place in regard to BC Transit's ridership information and the RDBN survey that was conducted in 2018. The time frames were different and the RDBN survey was conducted to determine where riders reside that use the Bulkley-Nechako Transit Service.

Director McGuire brought forward the current inability for the Granisle Community Bus to connect with the Highway 16 Bulkley-Nechako Transit Service. Mr. Ringma mentioned that the topic has been brought forward during Collaboration meetings.

Discussion took place in regard to signage and advertising. Mr. Ringma provided an outline of the marketing initiatives conducted by BC Transit. The new signage near Smithers was an initiative undertaken by the Town of Smithers utilizing funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust to have signage that provides information in regard to the two transit services provided in the community.

Chair Greenaway thanked Mr. Ringma for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

2018 Survey Report

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director McGuire

RTC.2019-1-4

"That the Regional Transit Committee receive the Regional Transit Coordinator's February 4, 2019 memo titled "2018 Survey Report;" and further, that the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to continue conducting the survey twice a year."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Area A Public Engagement Plan – 2019 – Transit Related Initiative

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Lambert

RTC.2019-1-5

"That the Regional Transit Committee receive the Regional Transit Coordinator's January 29, 2019 memo titled "Area A Public Engagement Plan – 2019 – Transit Related Initiative;" and further, that the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize providing five tickets to Directors wanting to use the tickets as giveaways to promote the service."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2019 GradPass Program

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Layton

RTC.2019-1-6

"That the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve participation in the GradPass Program for 2019."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Infrastructure Request

Moved by Director Funk
Seconded by Director Layton

RTC.2019-1-7

“That the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve moving forward with the installation of a bus shelter at the stop beside the Lake Babine Nation Band Office on Sus Ave in the community of Woyenne.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2018 Ridership

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Lambert

RTC.2019-1-8

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the Regional Transit Coordinator’s January 31, 2019 memo titled “2018 Ridership.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director McGuire

RTC.2019-1-9

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the following correspondence:
-BC Transit – BC Transit Continues to Enhance Safety with CCTV Cameras
-Government of BC – All 12 Community Services Running, Benefiting People in the North.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2018

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Brien

RTC.2019-1-10

“That the Minutes of the Regional Transit Committee meeting of July 19, 2018 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

2019 GradPass Program

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Layton

RTC.2019-1-11

“That the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve including the Houston Christian School, Northside Christian School (Vanderhoof) and Bulkley Valley Christian School (Smithers) in the GradPass Program for 2019.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

Takla First Nation
Community Bus

Levi Davis, Takla First Nation provided an overview of the ridership and schedule of the Takla Nation Community Bus. Chair Greenaway mentioned that with no transit in Fort St. James there may be an opportunity to work with the First Nations communities to increase ridership on the Takla Nation Community Bus. Mr. Davis indicated they are considering options for the services. Mr. Ringma suggested Mr. Davis contact him to discuss the service schedule. Chair Greenaway encouraged further discussion in the future.

Asset Management Planning
-Bus Replacement

Lara Beckett, Director Electoral Area "C" Chilako River-Nechako, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George questioned if asset management planning for bus replacement is being conducted. Mr. Ringma mentioned that BC Transit amortizes its light duty vehicles (buses) over a five year period but consideration is given to factors in the fleet: monitoring, wear and tear and kilometres.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Layton
Seconded by Director Playfair

RTC.2019-1-12

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:10 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Tom Greenaway, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant