



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

2:15 P.M.
(VIRTUAL)

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA – APRIL 8, 2021</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-4	Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020	Receive
	<u>DELEGATION</u>	
	BC TRANSIT Lindsay Taylor, Manager, Government Relations RE: 2021 Bulkley Nechako Transit Service Review	
	<u>REPORTS</u>	
5-7	Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1/Regional Transit Coordinator – 2021 Bulkley Nechako Transit Service Review	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Committee of the Whole)**Thursday, December 10, 2020**

PRESENT: Chair Tom Greenaway

Directors Gladys Atrill – Via Teleconference
Shane Brien
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Brad Layton – Via Teleconference
Linda McGuire
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson
Sarrah Storey
Gerry Thiessen

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1/Regional Transit Coordinator
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Via Tele-Conference Dave Bradshaw, Manager of Transportation & Technical Services, City of Prince George
Michael Coulson, Transit Planner, City of Prince George
Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach & Business Engagement, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Debbie Joujan, CAO, Village of Telkwa – arrived at 1:20 p.m.
Lindsay Taylor, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit

Media Priyanka Ketkar, Lakes District News – left at 1:09 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greenaway called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDAMoved by Director J. Greenaway
Seconded by Director McGuire**RTC.2020-2-1**

"That the Regional Transit Agenda of December 10, 2020 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Regional Transit Committee Minutes – October 8, 2020

Moved by Director Petersen
 Seconded by Director Storey

RTC.2020-2-2

“That the Regional Transit Committee meeting minutes of October 8, 2020 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee Revised Terms of Reference

Moved by Director Lambert
 Seconded by Director Brienen

RTC.2020-2-3

“That revised Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee Terms of Reference be approved as amended.”

Opposed: Director J. Greenaway
 Director McGuire
 Director Storey

CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

The Manager of Administrative Services mentioned that Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee Terms of Reference were revised to remove Procedure: #1. The revised version was distributed to all members of the Regional Transit Committee.

Chair Greenaway provided an update in regard to a meeting he attended in regard to determining options for transit service for the community of Fort St. James. He spoke of future meetings with stakeholders to move forward an option for Fort St. James. Lindsay Taylor, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit indicated that BC Transit plans to begin a check-in with communities on and off the Highway 16 Transit route system in the Spring of 2021. The check-in will provide an opportunity for all communities to provide input and to investigate opportunities moving forward to build service expansion for future requests of the Province.

Chair Greenaway provided an overview of the past community bus program with First Nations communities neighbouring Fort St. James. Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach & Business Engagement, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure mentioned that the Community Transportation Grant program has been extended for the First Nations Communities neighbouring Fort St. James. The Community Transportation Grant Program is also under review.

Director Funk asked how the role of the Regional Transit Committee could support the review process MOTI will be undertaking in 2021. Ms. Harmon indicated that she will provide the Regional Transit Committee’s contact information to the Community Transportation Grant Program representative.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Bulkley-Nechako Regional
Transit Service Annual
Operating Agreement
Amendment

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director J. Greenaway

RTC.2020-2-4

“That Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Annual
Operating Agreement Amendment be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director McGuire

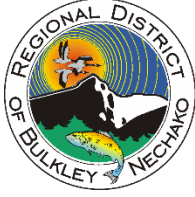
RTC.2020-2-5

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:25 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Tom Greenaway, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Memo

TO: Chair Thiessen and Regional Transit Committee

FROM: Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1/Regional Transit Coordinator

DATE: April 8, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Bulkley Nechako Transit Service Review

RECOMMENDATION

(all/directors/majority)

Receipt

BACKGROUND

In 2021 BC Transit will be doing a service review for the Bulkley Nechako Transit Service. As a first step in the consultation process, BC Transit will be presenting to the Regional Transit Committee at the April 8, 2021 meeting. Below is the outline for that presentation.

BC Transit Presentation Outline

In December 2015, the Province released the Highway 16 Five Point Transportation Action Plan. The Plan works to improve access to safe transportation options along Highway 16, enabling residents of First Nations communities and other residents to travel safely between communities in the corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure committed \$8.1-million in provincial and federal funding for the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan. The five elements of the action plan are described in more detail below.

1. Transit expansion
2. Community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles
3. First Nations driver education program
4. Highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters
5. Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services

One of the five points was related to transit expansion and the province committed \$4.2 million on a cost-shared basis with local communities, for the expansion of inter-community BC Transit services along Highway 16 from Terrace to Prince George.

The first Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit Service started January 30, 2017, linking the communities of Smithers and Moricetown, which are about 30 kilometres apart. This service complements current BC Transit services between the Hazeltons and Smithers.

In June 2017, service from Burns Lake to Prince George and Burns Lake to Smithers began and in November 2017, service connecting the Hazeltons with Gitwangak, Terrace and New Remo started.

It has been four years since the Highway 16 service was implemented and a check in is required as part of monitoring the service, ensuring it is meeting community needs and resources are being used effectively.

Initial meetings are planned for this spring with communities along the corridor. The intent of the check in is to build relationships with communities along the corridor and inform the development of a public engagement plan to launch in the fall of 2021.

A template was developed to guide discussions during the initial check in meetings. Below are the questions that were developed.

Hwy 16 Overview

- Introductions/Roundtable for those on the call
- Overview of BCT model and strategic plan
- High level overview of Hwy 16 system and funding
- Overview of service review process and timelines

Community Context

- What are the highest priorities for community? Does not have to be transit related
- What are the biggest challenges your community faces? Transportation related?
- Have you heard any feedback from the community about the transit system?
- What do you think are the barriers to using transit?
- What transit improvements do you think could be made?
- Do you feel that your community has a voice/influence in transit? If no, how can BCT ensure you feel included/in the know

Engagement

- What does engagement look like in your community?
- What channels exist for reaching community members?
- What is the best way for BC Transit to engage with the community to understand transit priorities/improvements?

- What sort of communication (frequency and platform) would you like to see in order to keep updated on the project

Any other questions/comments/concerns?

Wrap up

- Will provide summary of discussion and will send to partner to review for any errors/additions
- Provide timeline for next steps