

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING

(Committee of the Whole)

Thursday, June 8, 2022

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Shane Brien Leroy Dekens Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Sarrah Storey Henry Wiebe
	Directors Absent	Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
	Alternate Directors	Judith Friesen, District of Fort St. James Frank Wray, Town of Smithers
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician/Regional Transit Coordinator Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
	Others	Michael Coulson, Transit Planner, City of Prince George- via Zoom Elijah Newell, Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) Lindsay Taylor, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit Aaron Thompson, Planner, Service Review Lead, BC Transit - via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brienen

RTC.2023-1-1

"That the Regional Transit Agenda of June 8, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Regional Transit Committee
Minutes – March 17, 2022

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director McGuire

RTC.2023-1-2

"That the Regional Transit Committee meeting minutes of March 17, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

BC TRANSIT – Lindsay Taylor, Manager, Government Relations and Aaron Thompson, Planner, Service Review Lead RE: Transit Future Service Plan Highway 16

Chair Parker welcomed Lindsay Taylor, Manager, Government Relations and Aaron Thompson, Planner, Service Review Lead, BC Transit.

Ms. Taylor and Mr. Thompson provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Transit Future Service Plan Highway 16

- Territorial Announcement
- Background
- Introduction
- Transit Today
- Engagement
- Transit Need
- Impacts and Response to COVID-19
- Strategies, Service Improvements, and Infrastructure
- Affordability
- Safety
- Promotion and Communication
- Fleet
- Service Improvements: Ease of Implementation
- Infrastructure Priorities
- BC Transit Future Initiatives
- Acknowledgments.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

BC TRANSIT – Lindsay Taylor, Manager, Government Relations and Aaron Thompson, Planner, Service Review Lead RE: Transit Future Service Plan Highway 16

The following was discussed:

- Safety issue
 - o Variety of issues
 - Most common – safety at stops – drug use/aggressive behaviour
 - Where on-board issues are reported BC Transit reviewing and looking at how to address
 - o Reports of discomfort by some riders due to excessive intoxication of people
 - BC Transit does not put drivers in the position of enforcement – no enforcement
 - When addressing intoxicated individuals drivers can contact their operations department to have RCMP meet them at the next stop to address the individual
 - Working with local governments/municipalities for them to make the call
 - Working with RCMP and have them regularly check when possible
 - o Fares
 - Potentially increase the fee for service
 - As part of the agreement with the province fares will be maintained until March 2025F
 - Will review and take into consideration the potential of creating fees per zone
 - o Using the exterior of the bus for advertising opportunities
 - Revenue would go to the local government for the local costing of the service
 - BC Transit will explore possible opportunities
 - o Potential sponsorship of the service
 - o Collaboration with existing groups and transportation service providers
 - o BC Transit meets with Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) regularly
 - Will be working with them to determine gaps
 - Support connectivity of already existing services
 - o Fort St. James
 - Seniors bus that transports seniors to appointments in Prince George
 - Binche Whut'en has a bus that goes to Prince George twice a week
 - Currently there is no general public bus service
 - o Adding routes and the need to add additional buses
 - o Next Steps
 1. BC Transit will provide report to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
 2. BC Transit develops an MOU outlining commitment
 3. BC Transit develops a Service Plan that will include areas where local government wants to explore expansion opportunities.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Taylor and Mr. Thompson for attending the meeting.

REPORT

Draft Transit Future Service
Plan – Highway 16

Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Dekents

RTC.2023-1-3

“That the Committee receive the Draft Transit Future Service
Plan – Highway 16 report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- NDIT Northern Community Shuttle Program
 - Nee Tahi Buhn Band Community Bus
 - A community bus for Fort St. James
 - Chair Parker will follow-up with Directors Lambert and Friesen
- Direction for the Committee moving forward
 - Service is not sustainable without an Increased level of funding and cost certainty
 - Rural/Agriculture Committee discussion regarding Electoral Area participation in the transit service
 - Bring forward for Board consideration to increase the requisition limit and determine direction regarding new service or increased service.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RTC.2023-1-4

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:37 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services