



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSIT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TMAC) THURSDAY MAY 19, 2016, STARTING AT 11:00

In the Flute Room
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

PRESENT:

Steve Anderson, RMOW Councillor – TMAC Chair
Bill Murray, Citizen-at-Large
Scott Pass, Citizen-at-Large
Kevin Schubert, BC Transit – Director Regional Transit
Juan Carlos Gomez, Whistler Transit Ltd. – Manager
James Hallisey, RMOW – General Manager Infrastructure Services
Emma DalSanto, RMOW – TDM Coordinator & Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Matthew Boyd, BC Transit – Regional Planning Work Lead
Steve Antil, Whistler Transit Ltd. – Service Delivery Manager, *alternate*

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Scott Pass
Seconded by Bill Murray

That the Agenda of the Transit Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) agenda of May 19, 2016 be adopted as with the addition of the following items under Other Business:

- *Winter 2016/2017 Schedule*
- *Pets on Board Policy*
- *CUTA Conference Highlights*

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Scott Pass
Seconded by Bill Murray

That the Minutes of April 12, 2016 of the Transit Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) be adopted with minor corrections.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Federal and Provincial Funding

Provincial Funding:

- BC Transit reported that there was no new information to share regarding the Provincial Funding announced in February.
- BC Transit has sent Whistler an Expansion Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding proposed expansion for 2017 through 2020 and requires a formal response by the end of June.

Federal Funding:

- The Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities - Minister Sohi, announced at the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) conference earlier this week that \$120 billion have been assigned to the new Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) for public transit related capital and infrastructure projects in two phases over approximately 10 years.
- Phase 1 (2016/2017-2018/2019):
 - \$3.4 billion
 - Under this new initiative, funding will be allocated to municipalities based on ridership
 - \$460,490,000 has been earmarked for BC. The federal government announced that they are open to funding up to 50% eligible costs instead the usual 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 formula.
 - BC Transit anticipates have more information will be known by at the June 2016 Workshop in Whistler with regards to the grant application process.
- Phase 2:
 - The Federal Minister is seeking input from key stakeholders regarding the structure of Phase 2.
 - Plans to announce the Phase 2 program in the fall.

Sea To Sky Transit Future Plan (S2S TFP)

BC Transit circulated printed copies of the S2S TFP Executive Summary. The full report should be available in hard copy and on-line in the next month.

Implementation Update:

- BC Transit has prepared the Expansion Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for Pemberton, Whistler and Squamish based on the short-term recommendations from the S2S TFP
- BC Transit Planning group is developing the process to:
 - Initiate the S2S Transit Corridor Study and Governance Analysis

BC Transit to initiate the corridor study work with all of the local partners soon to ensure the work is undertaken to provide adequate time for review and discussion prior to 2017/18 service expansions.

2016/2017 AOA Transit Budget

RMOW staff presented the BC Transit Annual Operating Agreement (AOA) costs in a chart outlining operating and lease fees for the Facility/Equipment and Fleet/On-Road Service.

- From 2013 to 2017, total system costs have increased from \$11.2 to \$11.9 million or 6%.

MINUTES

Regular Transit Management Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Page 3

- This has included the addition of two buses in December 2013.
- 2016/2017 is the first year that RMOW will no longer receive a \$78,333 PTIP federal grant.
- BC Transit and the RMOW have identified a problem with the AOA Ridership and Revenue number budget estimates and are committed to fixing it to better match year end actuals for the 2017/2018 AOA budget.

BC Transit and RMOW staff presented the Expansion Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding proposed expansion for the Whistler Transit System 2017 through 2020.

- The 750 expansion hours identified for 2017/2018 were derived from the recently adopted Sea to Sky Transit Future Plan
- The 2018-2019 proposed expansion requires fleet.
- BC Transit requires formal confirmation of the local government's intent to commit to the expansion in 2017/18 and confirm the local government is prepared to budget appropriately for the subsequent two years of proposed expansion initiatives in the form of the MOU.
- Next steps would be for BC Transit to work with the local partners on the details of the expansion priorities to inform the 2017 budget process.

Moved by Scott Pass

Seconded by Bill Murray

TMAC recommends that Council approve the 2016-2017 Annual Operating Agreement as presented at the May 19, 2016 TMAC meeting.

CARRIED

Moved by Scott Pass

Seconded by Steve Anderson

WHEREAS the 2017/2018 Whistler Transit System proposed service expansion as outlined in the Expansion MOU is aligned with the short term recommendations in the Sea to Sky Transit Future Plan as recently endorsed by Council;

TMAC recommends THAT Council directs staff to work with BC Transit to develop a detailed operation plan for the 750 service hours in 2017/2018;

AND THAT Council directs staff to work with TMAC and TAG to develop the direction of the proposed service hour increases for the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 expansion which will require additional vehicles to the Whistler Transit System fleet.

CARRIED

Staff Housing 2015-2016 Pilot Project Summary Report

The 2015/2016 Staff Housing Pilot Project consisted of two parts – 1) Full Winter (December 12, 2015 – April 3, 2016) and 2) Late Winter/WSSF (April 4 – 17, 2016).

- Whistler Blackcomb lead the full winter 2015/2016 Staff Housing Pilot Project bringing in the sponsors from last year and adding a new sponsor
- Ridership in 2015/2016 project was even higher than in 2014/2015

MINUTES

Regular Transit Management Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Page 4

- The free hours were expanded to include two extra free trips daily and eleven extra days to match the full winter schedule
- Many of the evening trips were at capacity
- If Whistler Blackcomb and partners would like to continue this program in winter 2016/2017, we need to consider adding service (more buses) on the Route 7 from 8 to 10pm.
- This pilot project demonstrates the potential that reducing fares has on increasing transit ridership in the Whistler context.
- Early in the 2016 an opportunity arose to have FIDO sponsor all trips on the Staff Housing bus during the World Ski and Snowboard Festival (WSSF)
 - RMOW staff worked with FIDO staff to make this happen
 - the free service was appreciated by WSSF patrons and Staff Housing route residents
- Whistler Blackcomb will present the full results to Council in June

Whistler Transit
System Year over
Year Performance

BC Transit presented the Whistler Transit System Performance summary from 2011 to 2016. This data is gathered by the Operating Company from Gondola Transit Exchange at least twice per month during peak periods. The purpose is to identify trends to determine if, and where, additional analysis is required.

There are four categories used for this purpose:

- On-time Performance (buses arriving and leaving at Gondola Transit Exchange) – there has been continuous improvement since reporting began in 2012 which may be attributed to scheduling efforts and fleet changes
- Missed Trips – there has been a continuous decline in missed trips. Accidents were the largest contributing factor to missed trips followed by construction and break-downs.
- Passenger Pass Ups have improved since 2012/2013
- Customer Comments are also tracked to identify trends in passenger perception and to influence operational issues such as schedules

Discussion:

- TMAC asked how Whistler compares to other systems.
- TMAC requested that BC Transit share the most recent research on the maximum walking distances for service types.

ACTION: BC Transit staff will work with Whistler Transit Ltd and RMOW staff to use these results to improve the 2016/2017 winter schedule.

TMAC 2105
Outstanding Actions
& Resolutions

RMOW staff gave a status update on the following Actions and Resolutions:

- *Moved by Bill Murray, Seconded by Scott Pass*
Whereas, the size and shape of the current bus shelter poster was originally designed in 1991 when the Whistler Transit System only had less than half the service it has today; TMAC requests
THAT BC Transit work with TMAC to redesign the bus shelter poster over the summer of 2013 to be more readable.

- This will be included in the 2016/2017 Annual marketing Plan for the Whistler Transit System. See next item on the Agenda.

- **ACTION 2:**
RMOW staff will return to the next meeting with a proposed outline for a “Spring Creek Transportation and Transit Options Assessment” that TMAC can review and consider as a recommendation to Council.
 - RMOW staff are working with an independent consultant to review this area and will bring the report to TMAC at a future meeting.

- **Action 6:**
TMAC requests that staff research the possibility of employers receiving carbon tax credits related to the purchase or subsidy of transit fare products for staff travel at work or staff commutes.
 - BC Transit is required to measure GHG emission and purchase offsets to get to net-zero emissions. BC Transit must report bus GHG emissions but is not required to purchase offsets for bus emissions based on the fact that public transit reduces the use and thus emissions from private vehicles. Therefore, the potential “carbon tax credits” related to transit use are already not available for sale to a third party.

- **ACTION 1:**
That TMAC requests BC Transit get the updated metrics for the Colorado Resorts transit systems originally collected in the 2011 Whistler Transit System review and present them to the next TMAC meeting comparing them with the metrics in the transit future plan.
 - BC Transit presented an update of fare free public transit in the US.
 - For more information, download the TCRP Synthesis 101 – Implementing and Outcomes of Fare-Free Transit Systems at http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_syn_101.pdf
 - Simpson-Curtin Rule: estimates that a 10% fare increase will result in a 3% drop in ridership. Conversely, a 100% decrease in fares would be expected to result in a ridership increase of 30%.
 - TMAC noted that the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games and Staff Housing Pilot Project experience indicates more than a 30% increase in ridership in Whistler.

Updates

MoTI Highway Betterment Program Application

- Whistler met with MoTI staff and toured all projects listed by TMAC.

BC Transit Hydrogen Bus Project

- Funding ended March 31, 2014
- BC Transit has sold the vehicles and they are being removed from Whistler
- Listed below is the link to the Hydrogen Fuel Cell project summary report:
 - <http://ballard.com/email/email11271301.aspx>
 - www.nrel.gov/docs/fy15osti/62683.pdf

Winter Schedule

- Planning for winter 2016-2017 will start in the next month
- Will include review of Valley Connector routing including the Emerald portion of the route with an eye toward route efficiency and ways to increase ridership
 - Issues include narrow road way (snow and parked vehicles)

CUTA Conference Update – deferred

Pets on Board Policy Update - deferred

Next Meeting

The next TMAC meeting will be scheduled July or August 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bill Murray

That Transit Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) adjourns the May 19, 2016 regular TMAC meeting at 1:30 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: Steve Anderson