



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR WORKSHOP OF THE TRANSIT MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JULY 5, 2021, STARTING AT 9:30 A.M.
Remote Meeting
On Zoom**

PRESENT	Mtgs YTD (2)
Council Representative and Chair, J. Ford	2
Whistler Transit Ltd., C. Hoffman (alternate)	2
BC Transit, Senior Manager Government Relations, R. Ringma	2
BC Transit, Senior Transit Planner, B. Bullivant (alternate)	2
BC Transit, Marketing Coordinator, W. Matthews (guest)	2
RMOW GM Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey	2
RMOW Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, E. DalSanto	2
RMOW Recording Secretary, D. Taveira	1
REGRETS	
Whistler Transit Ltd. Manager, J. Gomez	0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by R. Ringma
Seconded C.Hoffmann

That Transit Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) adopt the TMAC Workshop agenda of July 5, 2021.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Whistler
TFAP

A presentation by BC Transit, Senior Transit Planner, B. Bullivant regarding the Transit Future Action Plan (TFAP) the Public Engagement results and the proposed draft proposed changes to the Whistler Transit System over the next 5 years based on the engagement results.

James Hallisey entered the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

The top priorities include:

- 10 Valley Express Package – specifically related to frequency improvements in Spring-Summer-Fall (SSF) until more buses are available to make improvements in Winter peak times
- Infrastructure improvements related to highway including:

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- bus stops at Nesters, Spring Creek and Cheakamus Crossing
- transit priority measures between Whistler Creekside and Function
- Potential for Regional Transit Network Study completed in cooperation with MOTI
- Infrastructure in Cheakamus for a Park-and-Ride lot
- Modifications to 10-Valley Express
 - Whistler Village
 - Nester Mall
 - potential to reroute how it services Function Junction
- Improvements to 20, 25, 21, 30
- Removal of Route 32 to be grouped into improvement into 6-Blueberry/Tapley's Connector as part of a new part of route
- New service to Alta Lake Road will be incorporated in later years of the plan
- Improve weekend service in the summer

Priorities that did not make it through in years 1-5

- Any improvement that relied on expanding capacity in Whistler Village such as:
 - 20 peak frequency in winter,
 - improve weekend service separate from weekday all year,
 - 20 peak frequency to achieve same service level in ssf as it is in winter,
 - year-round service in Spring Creek to match winter levels
- Providing service to Wedgewoods (currently not within the RMOW boundaries and should be added to Regional Service)
- Removal of shoulder seasons
- New Gondola Transit Exchange

Discussion questions from TMAC:

- Servicing new areas requested:
 - Alta Lake Road– would need more buses- hourly service between 7am - 7pm in one direction. Is this summer only or year round service? What population is it serving?
 - Wedgewood Estates- lots of talk about it but not in the Whistler area.
- Returning Late Winter and Full winter seasons to 2019 dates.
 - Late winter additional service has been cut in 2020 and 2021 due to the early closing of Whistler and Blackcomb mountains due to COVID19.
 - Late winter extra buses need to match ski season and should be extended by 2 weeks.
 - Supported by public engagement
 - Full winter service starting at the beginning of December may not be necessary in near term but perhaps later. Need to watch December 2021 visitation and ridership.
- What's our focus - adding service hours or Bus stop infrastructure? Gap in current the southbound service could be filled by route 10 if it detoured into the Village. Perhaps a pilot to try this change

Action: BC Transit will update the years 1-5 objectives based on today's workshop and bring the draft back to the team to review

2021-2022
AOA
& Expansion

A presentation by BC Transit, Senior Manager Government Relations, R. Ringma regarding BC Transit to present the draft expansion MOU for TMAC's consideration.

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Province is implementing children 12 and under travel for free on all public transit systems in BC. A set amount of money will be allocated to Whistler from the province depending on the youth market which will be brought forth of Council. \$9000.00 per month will be credited to Whistler monthly. The AOA tariff schedule needs to be adjusted so that the child section to youth 12 and under travel for free.

BC Transit is preparing the three year transit expansion initiatives letter to send to local partners and to Council for approval. There will be placeholders for expansions for 3000-5000 hours in year one and 4000 hours in year two. BC Transit Finance is putting together the dollar amount and these will be brought forward in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the near future.

In summary the key considerations in Year One are getting Whistler Transit System seasonality back to where it needs to be for winter and late winter service as well as focusing on high priority initiatives. Year two and three will be a continuation of TFAP priorities and moving them forward which would including additional buses.

Want to ensure we have the same level of service as we did and expanded hours to get back to pre-COVID service levels. This means increasing service hours which will be needed. We may need to incorporate the Northlands route modification as a pilot project to test improving the Route 10-Valley Express.

Update: BC Transit's fleet team is engaged in a long term plan to look at their Low Carbon Fleet Program as part of the BC Clean Plan. The bus request expansion could be a longer wait, may have to secure initiatives requiring additional vehicles two years in advance moving forward instead of 18 months. New buses will either be CNG or Electric.

James Hallisey left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Transit
Infrastructure
Update

A presentation by RMOW Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, Emma DalSanto regarding Transit Infrastructure.

- Request for afterhour's access to public washrooms that the RMOW operates for Whistler Transit System late night drivers. A formal request has come forth for a Porto potti at Gondola Transit Exchange (GTEX) and Bayly Park. RMOW is not supportive of adding temporary washrooms to GTEX at this time since all the business are re-opening for summer operations and the new public washrooms are complete in Olympic Plaza.

It was suggested that in the future drivers take their overnight breaks at the Village Gate Bus loop where a new washroom is being constructed. RMOW staff will continue to peruse the request for the Olympic Plaza washroom accessible for drivers.

- Maps at bus shelters (the whole map) suggestion: have the individual route map each bus stop as it creates confusion. Not everyone has data on their phone for Next Ride. Suggestion to highlight routes that apply to individual bus stops whether it be at the stops or on Next Ride.
- Village Gate Boulevard Bus Shelter retrofit – designs have been stalled due to a legal issue from 30 years ago. The bus shelter was built on the sidewalk right-of-way but it was never stated in the covenant that a bus shelter could be constructed on the sidewalk right-of-way. RMOW staff are still trying to have the accessibility upgrade move forward this fall.

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- Alta Vista Southbound – pathway – on hold but new funding has come forward. We have an operational issue with the snow clearing of the pathway. Currently looking at other options.
- Emerald Layby – Phase 2- Discussions happening with neighbors. Trying to find a local artist to paint the posts and bus shelter to improve the look.
- Gondola Transit Exchange – have landscape designs for minor upgrades to move the crosswalk and improve the accessibility to Blackcomb way and add seating.
- Bailey Park Layby upgrade- no movement yet for more space.

Winter
2021/22

A presentation by BC Transit, Senior Transit Planner, B. Bullivant regarding Winter 2021/22 transit schedule.

- Winter 2021/22 transit schedule must be signed off by mid-July.
- Propose proceeding with no significant changes to the Winter 2020/21 transit schedule.
 - The 6:50pm trip on the Route #7 needs to be moved to the 6:30pm to create 30 minute frequencies instead of a 50 minute gap. A bus was added last winter at 6:24pm to deal with this schedule error.

Communications
And Marketing

A presentation by RMOW Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, Emma DalSanto regarding Communications and Marketing.

Review and brainstorming for upcoming Communications and Marketing plans/events for the remainder of 2021 including Kids Ride the Bus (educational program) in September and Whistler Transit System 30 year anniversary November 29th, 2021 and BC Transit photo shoot.

BC Transit indicated that the Kids Ride the Bus program is currently going through an internal redesign engagement. BC Transit will share details with local partners when they have them later this year. The RMOW is requesting that BC Transit do promotions and re-launch the program in Whistler in September with the provincial program.

BC Transit noted that the photo shoot was a success and some photos will be available to the RMOW for use promoting transit.

Wyatt Matthews left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Electronic Fare
Payment
Update
Tap and Pay

A status report was given by BC Transit, Senior Manager Government Relations, R. Ringma. BC Transit has selected the technology component with System and design brand (EFCS). Open loop payment system tap card system. Will test it with a small pilot project, troubleshooting exercise. Looking to roll out full implementation of the program at end of 2022, early 2023.

Whistler may fit the bill as a pilot project community. BC Transit will share more information as it becomes available.

The RMOW staff indicated that RMOW Council is very interested in seeing Tap technology come to the Whistler Transit System.

Other
Business

RMOW staff will be going to Council with the AOA amendment for the Kids Ride Free program at the August Council meeting.

2021 Summer Experience Program has paid for a public service announcement installed on the exterior of the Whistler Transit buses by July 19 stating that transit is

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free on summer weekends and statutory holidays using the summer 2021 RMOW Park and Play branding. It will be removed right after Labour Day.

BC Transit does not currently have service in Tofino but they are working with the community to start a system. When they do start service in Tofino, it will have the same rules as other communities and will not be carrying watercraft.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by R. Ringma

Seconded by E. DalSanto

That the Transit Management Advisory Committee Meeting of July 5, 2021 be terminated at 12:07p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, J Ford

Recording Secretary, D. Taveira