



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF TRANSIT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2021, STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.

Remote Meeting
Held via Zoom –

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (4)
Council Representative and Chair, J. Ford	4
Whistler Transit Ltd., C. Hoffman (alternate)	4
BC Transit, Senior Manager Government Relations, R. Ringma	4
BC Transit, Senior Transit Planner, B. Bullivant (alternate)	4
RMOW GM Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey	4
RMOW TDM Coordinator, E. DalSanto	4
RMOW Recording Secretary, A. Marquie	1

GUEST	
BC Transit Marketing Coordinator, W. Matthews (guest)	3
BC Transit, Manager Operation Relations, R. Heart	1

REGRETS	
Whistler Transit Ltd. Manager, J. Gomez	0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by R. Ringma
Seconded by C. Hoffman

That Transit Management Advisory Committee adopt the TMAC Committee Agenda of October 26, 2021.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Hoffman
Seconded by R. Ringma

That Transit Management Advisory Committee adopt the regular Transit Management Advisory Committee Minutes of August 24, 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Whistler Transit 30th Anniversary

The Whistler Transit System partnership between the RMOW and BC Transit started in winter 1991/1992. Glacier Coach Lines was contracted as the original operating company. Whistler Transit Ltd became the operating contractor for winter 1992/1993. A celebration of the 30th anniversary of the system will be held in the spring.

- The goal is to raise awareness of the long standing relationship of between the RMOW, BC transit and the riders in the community.
- Some statistics from the community and BC transit will be presented at the celebration.
- A list of ideas was brought up as proposed highlights for the celebration.

ACTION:

E. DalSanto, W. Matthews and B. Bullivant will work on bring together some highlights and statistics to finalize the 30th Anniversary celebrations.

Custom Transit Feasibility Study

This study was started in 2019, and the recommendations are still in good standing. The costs associated in the study have changed due to the pandemic and should be updated if the study was used to present a custom transit option.

J. Hallisey entered the meeting at 11:30am

The custom transit study highlighted the different options available. If Whistler has the demand for it, one of the good option would be to introduce a taxi supplement in association with a local transportation company.

Should the Custom Transit move forward in the future, it would be focused on local transit only. Intercommunity Custom Transit is not part of the study at this stage.

Additional data will be added to work along with the study, as the age friendly assessment study will come out soon. This will provide further intel for future discussion on the Custom Transit subject.

ACTION: The RMOW will keep the study in its current draft form for now and will get it updated as needed prior to bringing it to Committees and Councils.

ACTION: BC Transit to include a section on eligibility criteria and process in the next draft of the study.

Transit Future Action Plan

The draft Transit Future Action Plan was presented to Council on September 21, 2021 and was circulated to the following groups for comment:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Lil'wat Nation
- Measuring Up Select Committee of Council
- Hotel Association of Whistler
- Restaurant Association of Whistler
- Pub and Nightclub sectors
- Whistler Housing Authority
- Whistler Youth Centre
- Tourism Whistler
- Whistler Chamber of Commerce

- Mature Action Committee
- Transportation Advisory Group (discussing on November 8)

Comments received are:

- Future transit planning should incorporate the anticipated development of Employee Housing Inventory. This includes the development on Westside (5298 Alta Lake Road) and Nordic (2077 Garibaldi Way) as well as Cheakamus Crossing.
 - The expansion in Route 10 and 20 takes the development south of the Village in account.
- Further improvements to the 10 service will have benefits for residents throughout the valley, specifically for residents to access employment and recreation opportunities on the other side of the village to their homes. Additionally, it also provides an alternative “all stops” service from Cheakamus Crossing to the Village (and beyond) and so, options for improved express options exist – particularly given additional improvements to 25 & 21 would ensure that service between Spring Creek and Nordic are maintained.
- Consider smaller, more efficient vehicles to service lower demand routes such as 6 + Spruce Grove and the proposed Alta Lake route.
 - RMOW has asked BC Transit to share results of the Transit-on-Demand study when they are available next year to see if this may be an option for Route 6 in year three of the plan
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) had questions to clarify the timing of adding bus stops on Highway 99 as well as concerns about maintenance of bus stop and shelters on Highway 99 right of way.
 - RMOW and BC Transit are meeting with MOTI to discuss this further
-

Bus 10 valley express will not come to the village to keep things moving out of congested areas.

B. Bullivant and BC Transit schedulers will come up next week to review routes and timings for the current transit system as well as the deviation for Route 10 Valley Express into the Village during off-peak times. This will ensure BC Transit understands the impacts of changes in services and schedules.

2022 Spring Services
Whistler Transit
System

Part of the Service changes for spring 2022 includes:

- Returning Late Winter extra buses that have been cancelled due to the early closing of Whistler and Blackcomb mountains due to COVID
- Starting full winter service closer to the beginning of December instead of December 18, bringing it back to where it was a few years ago.

Updates

Costs will be taken in consideration prior to making changes. We won't know until the Provincial Budget is presented in late February the actual level of expansion the Provincial government will fund.

Summer Monitoring results

- The ridership was still down from pre-pandemic levels, but higher than 2020.
- Bike rack deployment on the buses was down to compare to 2020.

MINUTES

Regular Transit Management Advisory Committee Meeting

October 26, 2021

Page 4

- Passups were equivalent to 2020 but down significantly from 2019.
- Some services were impacted due to road constructions with some difficulties to maintain a set schedule. Resolved after some feedback was provided.
- This summer with liquor service hours expanded, some buses were removed from service to allow them to be sanitized after riders were sick. This added a lot of additional time cleaning with the new COVID protocols.

Winter Service Update

- The schedule will be the same as last year
- Whistler Transit Ltd has hired several new drivers that are in training through November.
- Hopeful for more ridership this year to compare to last winter.

RMOW planning projects

- Age friendly Plan final meeting coming up – this will help with some community expectation on transit service.

Drivers washrooms

- Drivers have afterhours access to Bayley park washrooms
- A keypad was installed at the new Olympic Plaza washrooms in Whistler Village
- After hours keypad access for the Gateway Loop washroom currently under construction has been requested.
- Temporary toilets at Gondola Transit Exchange and Cheakamus Crossing will be removed before winter.

Community events

- Halloween at Tapley's is back on this year.
 - Park and Spook/Goblin Express buses will run again from 5:15pm to 8:30pm from Marketplace Parking lot
 - The bus will be decorated by the Waldorf School the Friday before the event.
- The New Year bus schedule has yet to be determined.
 - Free service after 6pm for New Year's eve.

OTHER BUSINESS

- C. Hoffman received a BC Transit SuperStar Award for 2021.
- High School bus passes have been handled out. Just shy of 500 were distributed.
- Transit Spirit pass
 - New \$25 discount on 1-month pass will be available starting November.
 - This discounted 1-month pass will be for sale at Municipal Hall and the Whistler Public Library.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by J. Hallisey
Seconded by R. Ringma

That the Transit Management Advisory Committee meeting of October 26, 2021
be terminated at 12:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, J Ford

Recording Secretary, A. Marquie