



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

## REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

1:00 P.M.

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA – March 17, 2022</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
xx	Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2021	Receive
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
xx	<u>BC TRANSIT</u> Lindsay Taylor, Manager, Government Relations RE: Highway 16 Service Review	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**(VIRTUAL)**

**(Committee of the Whole)**

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Dolores Funk  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Annette Morgan  
Bob Motion  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Absent Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Chris Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)  
Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician/Regional Transit Coordinator  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others Michael Coulson, Transit Planner, City of Prince George  
Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach & Business Engagement, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Development Initiative Trust  
Lindsay Taylor, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Lambert

**RTC.2021-2-1**

"That the Regional Transit Agenda of November 4, 2021 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Regional Transit Committee Minutes – April 6, 2021 Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

RTC.2021-2-2 “That the Regional Transit Committee meeting minutes of April 6, 2021 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

### **NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST – Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer RE: Northern Passenger Transportation Fund**

Chair Thiessen welcomed Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Mr. McKay provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Northern Passenger Transportation Service Fund**

- Engagement
- March 2021 NDIT entered into the Safe Restart Funding Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI)
  - o Over next 3 years to support transportation from Lytton to Yukon border
- Long haul transportation
  - o Currently in negotiation for a one-year extension for BC Bus North to complete a consultation/analysis of the service
  - o Commitment to ensure long haul services
  - o Goal to improve and integrate service
- Community Vehicle Program
  - o Started in 2017 as part of the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan
    - Funding was committed through Community Transportation Grant Program (Community Vehicles)
- NDIT's Goal
  - o Maintain and improve transportation services throughout northern BC
  - o Integrate transit services
  - o Increase knowledge, awareness of available services
  - o Wishing to provide multiyear funding
  - o Ensure no interruptions of current transportation options
  - o Awareness of another phase of consultation regarding long haul transportation.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Community Vehicle Program (CVP) Application
  - o Launch and intake time frame
  - o Awareness provided to current operators and communities
  - o Current Community Vehicle Program operators' budgets and future funding
  - o Competitive process for all applications
  - o CVP Application for capital and operating expenses
  - o NDIT funding allocation
    - 80% funding
    - Community matching funds/in-kind donation for consideration
  - o New applicants receiving approval will be working with a consultant to refine budgets and service
- Creative and innovative transportation ideas
  - o Flexibility regarding collaborative partnerships and types of services
- Important that available service is accessible and inclusive
- Capital/operational financial sustainability

### **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

#### **NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST – Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer RE: Northern Passenger Transportation Fund (Cont'd)**

- Fort St. James transit challenges
  - o Various community bus operators
    - Each bus has specific use or community demographic
  - o Minimal consolidation/partnerships
  - o Witnessing young individuals continuing to hitchhike
  - o Residents relocate due to lack of transit service to other communities for medical appointments etc.
- Vanderhoof and Saik'uz First Nation bus – good ridership
- Vanderhoof allocation of funds to purchase new bus as original bus was no longer road worthy
- NDIT perspective – vitality of community going forward will be tied to a reliable transportation service
- Transit – requires a “made in the north solution”
- Consolidation of transit services.

Chair Thiessen thanked Mr. McKay for attending the meeting.

#### **MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach & Business Engagement – RE: BC Bus North**

Chair Thiessen welcomed Linda Harmon, Director, Strategic Outreach & Business Engagement, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Ms. Harmon provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **BC Bus North**

- Routes
- Passenger Profile (2019)
- Community Benefits & Economic Impact.

The following was discussed:

- BC Bus North funding to end of March 2022
- MoTI to provide report to Federal Government regarding how BC Bus North has impacted individuals and the economy
  - o Availability of information
  - o RDBN Directors require further information from MoTI to provide feedback in regard to the impact to communities
- Approximately 15,000 passengers have travelled on BC Bus North since 2018
- People wanting to age in place – transit services needed
- Community benefits of busing
- BC Bus North fare structure change in 2020 to distance-based fare
- Utilized for intercommunity as well as long distance travelling
- Ridership information needed.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Harmon for attending the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Lambert

RTC.2021-2-3

“That the meeting be adjourned at 1:55 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Gerry Thiessen, Chair

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Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services



# Highway 16 Service Review

Lindsay Taylor  
Manager, Government Relations  
BC Transit

March 17, 2022

# Overview


- Highway 16 Ridership Recovery
- Highway 16 Service Review
- Local Community Check In
- Service Review Engagement Process

# RT 161 Monthly Ridership

## 2020/21 vs. 2021/22


30%  
increase

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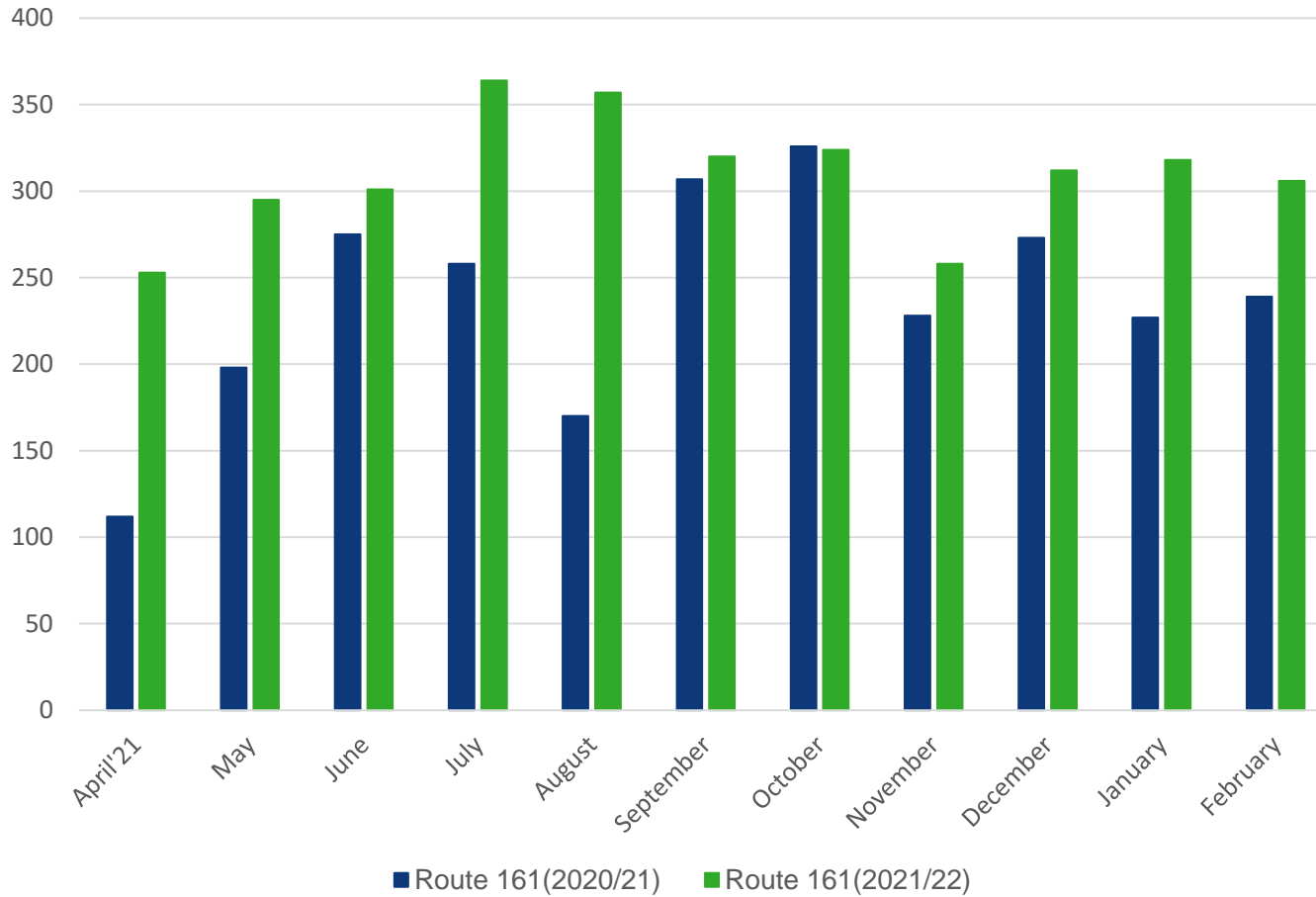


161 Prince George  
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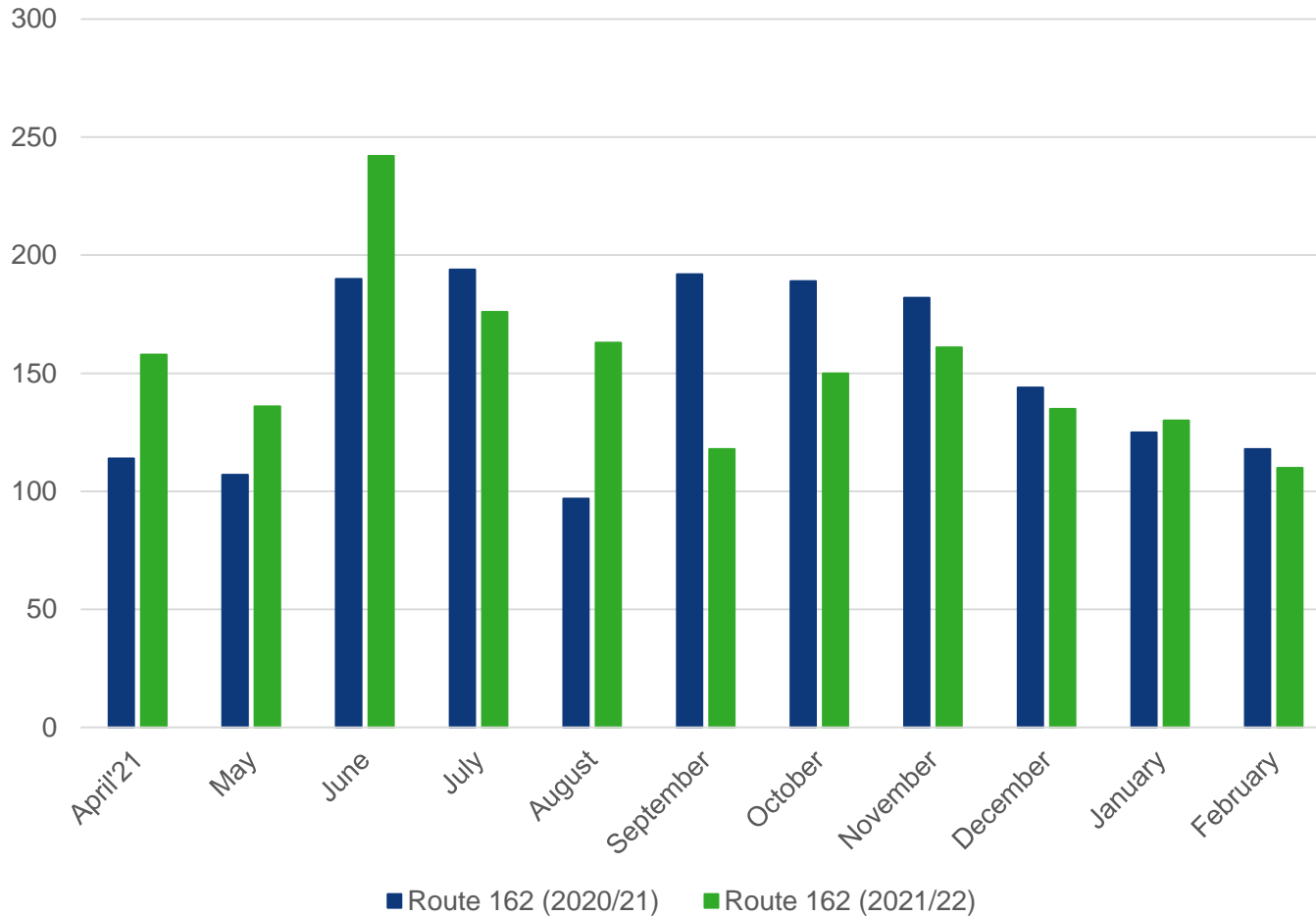




# RT 162 Monthly Ridership

## 2021 vs. 2022

2%  
increase



000001

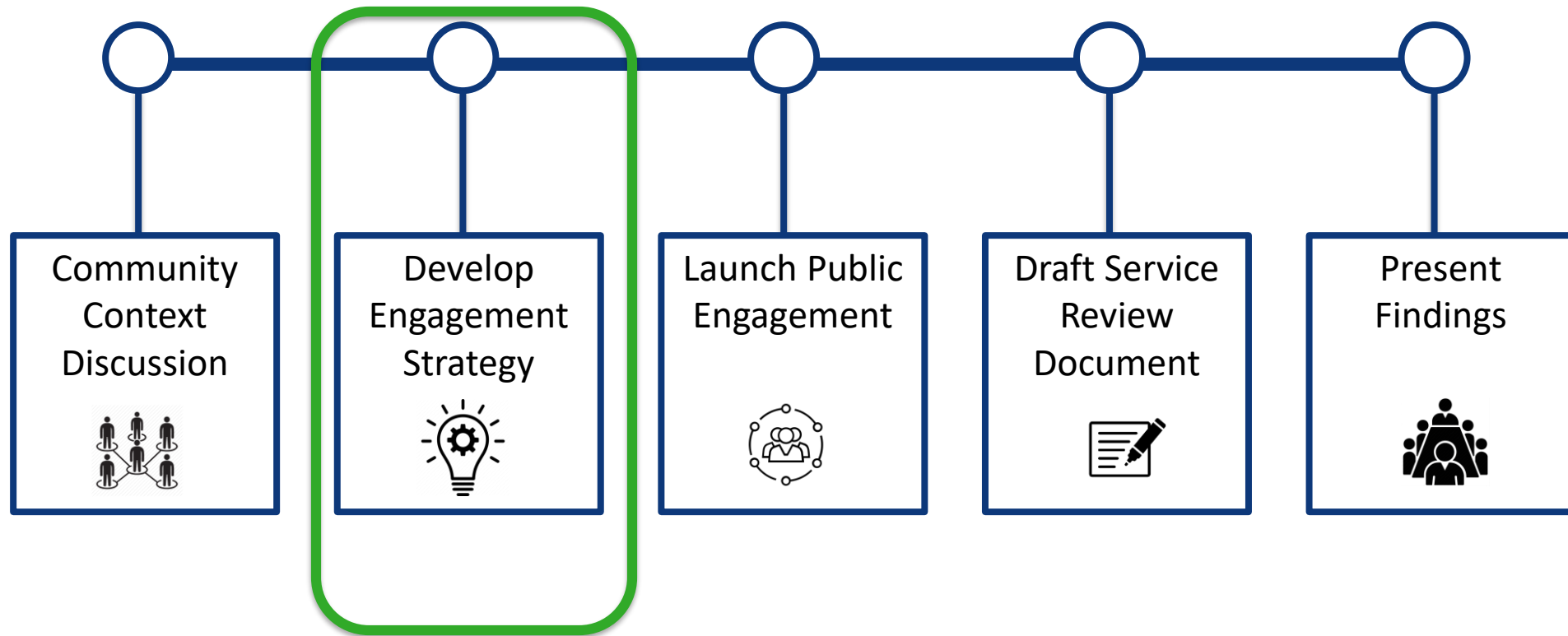
**162 Smithers**  
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# Highway 16 Service Review

- Focus on an operational review of current service
  - Identify quick wins, cost neutral improvements
  - Identify challenges/barriers to choosing transit among communities along Highway 16
  - Identify improvements for future consideration if/when expansion funding exists

# Service Review Process



# Community Context

- Connected with a number of communities to discuss what successful engagement looks like
- Developed a number of relationships and key contact list

# Engagement Strategies

- Mail out survey
- Online survey
- Advertising and Marketing Campaign
- Onboard customer survey

We will continue to engage with communities after the operational review and when in person engagement opportunities when COVID-19 restrictions allow



# Thank You



**Lindsay Taylor**

Manager, Government Relations

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