

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee Of The Whole)**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Acting Chair Bill Miller

Directors Chris Beach  
Eileen Benedict  
Shane Brienen  
Mark Fisher  
Dwayne Lindstrom  
Thomas Liversidge  
Rob MacDougall  
Rob Newell  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Darcy Repen  
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Taylor Bachrach, Town of Smithers  
Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Transit Service Coordinator  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Via Tele-Conference Tom Clement, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Vanderhoof  
Zoe Dhillon, Special Projects Coordinator, District of Vanderhoof  
Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Debbie Joujan, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Telkwa  
Art Kaehn, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George  
Jim Martin, CAO, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George  
Jillian Merrick, Councillor, City of Prince George  
Dyra Pridham, Executive Assistant, City of Prince George  
Tiina Schaeffer, Manager of Sustainable Community Development and Transit, City of Prince George  
Barbara Tom, Lake Babine Nation

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

**RTC. 2017-4-1**

"That the Regional Transit Committee Agenda for October 12, 2017 be adopted; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes -September 7, 2017

Moved by Director MacDougall  
Seconded by Director Petersen

RTC.2017-4-2

“That the Minutes of the Regional Transit Committee Meeting of September 7, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORTS**

Memorandum of Understanding to Amend the AOA Service Specifications

Moved by Director Thiessen  
Seconded by Director MacDougall

RTC.2017-4-3

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the Regional Transit Coordinator’s October 3, 2017 memo titled “Memorandum of Understanding to Amend the AOA Service Specifications,”, and further, that the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve signing the document.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Winter Schedule Change

Moved by Director Repen  
Seconded by Director Beach

RTC.2017-4-4

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the Regional Transit Coordinator’s October 3, 2017 memo titled “Winter Schedule Change.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Town of Smithers/BC Transit -Service Change

Moved by Director Repen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

RTC.2017-4-5

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the correspondence from the Town of Smithers/BC Transit regarding Service Change.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Repen expressed his appreciation for the expansion of the commuter route between the Village of Telkwa and Town of Smithers. He noted that there is a lack of signage and communication from BC Transit in regard to the Village of Telkwa to Town of Smithers route to identify that there are two different services accessing the same pickup/drop off locations. There also needs to be clarity and promotion in regard to where residents can purchase passes and costs associated with the route.

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**REPORT**

Passenger Pass-ups

Moved by Director Lindstrom  
Seconded by Director Parker

RTC.2017-4-6

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the Regional Transit Coordinator’s October 10, 2017 memo titled “Passenger Pass-ups.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deneve Vanderwolf, Regional Transit Coordinator noted that BC Transit is actively researching a solution so that pass ups do not occur. BC Transit is also open to solutions that the Regional Transit Committee may have to assist in mitigating pass ups. Chris Fudge, Senior Regional Transit Manager, BC Transit has initiated the process to have a larger bus on the route as soon as possible ahead of the schedule to have a new bus for the route in summer of 2018.

Director Thiessen noted that it is unacceptable for riders to experience pass ups and that in order for the service to be sustainable it needs to be reliable. He voiced concerns in regard to impacts to rider’s schedules if they are using the bus for appointments in other communities and riders coming from communities such as Fort St. James to Vanderhoof and their options if they are not able to take the bus.

Director MacDougall mentioned that the Transit Committee Advisory Committee discussed the potential for pass ups at meetings prior to the start of the service to mitigate the issue. He noted that BC Transit is aware of the issue and is working to find a solution in the interim but due to winter approaching there needs to be an immediate solution.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

BC Transit – Bulkley-Nechako  
Regional Transit – Winter  
Rider’s Guide – Effective  
November 6, 2017

Moved by Director Repen  
Seconded by Director Petersen

RTC.2017-4-7

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the correspondence from BC Transit regarding the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit – Winter Rider’s Guide – Effective November 6, 2017.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NEW BUSINESS**

Community Bus Funding

Director Repen questioned if funding remained from the Community Bus Program would there be an opportunity to expand the Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit System to address Greyhound Canada Transportation Corp. request to the Passenger Transportation Board to reduce service to northern B.C. Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure mentioned that the Community Bus Program was fully subscribed. She mentioned that Greyhound's request is currently in front of the Passenger Transportation Board for review and a decision has yet to be made. Jillian Merrick, Councillor, City of Prince George commented that a resolution was supported at the 2017 UBCM Convention to request that the Passenger Transportation Board not allow Greyhound Canada Transportation Corp.'s request to withdraw service to central and northern B.C.

Commuter Bus Service  
Between Houston and Smithers

Director Newell spoke of the need to have a commuter bus service between Houston and Smithers. He noted that there are 60 service jobs in Smithers that need to be filled along with 28 mill workers and 17 students travelling between the communities. He reiterated the economic need for a commuter service between the two communities.

Additional Stops and Signage  
in Houston

BC Transit has received the requests and is reviewing them. Staff will follow up with BC Transit.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Thiessen  
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

RTC.2017-4-8

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:23 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Bill Miller, Acting Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant