



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2016

1:00 P.M.

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Boardroom

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA – November 24, 2016</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-7	Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2016	Receive
8-13	Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes (In-Camera) – September 22, 2016	Receive
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
14	City of Prince George - Highway 16 Inter- Community Transit	Receive
15-17	BC Healthy Living Alliance/Heart & Stroke Foundation – <i>Communities on the Move</i> Declaration: Creating Smart, Fair and Healthy Transportation Options for All BC Communities	Receive
	<u>DISCUSSION ITEM</u>	
	Regional Transit Service Establishment - Participants and Cost Apportionment Model	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

MINUTES

Regional Transit Committee Minutes – October 20, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Newell

RTC.2016-3-2

“That the Regional Transit Committee minutes of October 20, 2016 be received as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

BC Transit RE: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit DRAFT Revised Service Options Public Consultation

Discussion took place regarding the suggested changes brought forward at the October 20, 2016 Regional Transit Committee Meeting. Chris Fudge, Senior Regional Transit Manager, BC Transit noted that some changes have been incorporated and work is continuing to address the changes.

BC Transit has requested feedback in regard to the revised draft service, fare, infrastructure and policy proposals by November 10, 2016.

Discussion took place in regard to the buses being purchased by the province and contributing 100 percent of the capital cost and 66.69% of the operating cost for the service for the term of the agreement. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed to three years due to their commitment requirements at this time but do not intend for the project to end after the three year term. Mr. Fudge outlined what has happened in the past in regard to the purchase of vehicles when a transit system is implemented. The Province contributes its share and the local government provides its share through loan financing. In this funding model the new buses are being fully purchased with the funding provided by the Province. To have the buses operational as soon as possible buses will be utilized from BC Transit's contingency fleet until the purchase process for new buses can be completed. Standard life span for the light duty buses is five years.

Director Bachrach spoke of support from the Town of Smithers in expediently moving forward with the Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit System. Discussion took place in regard to the preliminary cost calculations influencing service levels provided for communities in moving forward.

Director Thiessen voiced concerns in regard to the cost implications to the District of Vanderhoof, connectivity to travel from Vanderhoof to Smithers, potential ridership and clear outlines regarding ridership. He also spoke to the potential impacts to other transportation operators along Highway 16. The District of Vanderhoof not being included in the organizational discussions at the start of the process was also a frustration. Director Bachrach outlined the hub model wherein there are regional hubs with transit spokes to move individuals to locations with higher levels of commercial, government, health services, etc. Discussion took place regarding the ability to trial the system and can make changes in response to emerging patterns in moving forward.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Director Parker commented that the original concept for the Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit system was for safety in assisting in removing hitchhiking from Highway 16. He questioned if that was still the priority and/or the priority was also to provide a transit system to move volumes of people. Debbie West, General Manager, Nee Tahi Buhn mentioned that for the community of Nee Tahi Buhn the value is having an affordable means of transportation that is safe.

Director Thiessen indicated the need to discuss the transit system with Saik'uz First Nation and determine their needs and wants. Chair Miller mentioned the challenges moving forward without having full consultation and discussion with all First Nations communities within the RDBN. He noted the success of the Highway 16 Transit System will be determined by having everyone participating. He spoke to the meetings that along with Director Bachrach, he had resolved to move forward from the meeting on October 20, 2016. They recently met with Lake Babine Nation and noted their desire to support Highway 16 Transit.

Director Repen noted that there are separate funds to provide secure hitch hiking locations and exploring the use of technology to provide a more secure way for people who will continue to hitchhike. Director Repen commented on his experience with hitchhiking. He also spoke to the Draft Terms of Reference allowing the ability to participate but also allows the ability to make changes if necessary.

Discussion took place regarding the consultation processes to determine the want and need for an inter-community transit system.

Director MacDougall mentioned that he participated on the Provincial Organizational Committee and there were representatives from communities and First Nations along Highway 16 including Fort St. James and discussions at that time were to have the Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit System complement services already in existence. He commented that Nak'azdli Whut'en Band, Tl'azt'en Nation, Binche First Nation and Fort St. James are developing a partnership to connect transit from Fort St. James to the Highway 16 Transit.

Director Newell spoke to transit studies that have outlined the benefits of low cost travel, economic development and safety.

Chair Miller commented that there is a desire to move forward with the draft terms of reference and discuss the costs associated with the transit system.

Chair Miller thanked Ms. West for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Reports – BC Transit

Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Director Bachrach

RTC.2016-3-3

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the following reports from BC Transit:

- Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit DRAFT Revised Service Options Public Consultation;
- Updated Detailed Route and Stop Locations (Oct 24, 2016).”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**“Draft” Terms of Reference
For the Bulkley-Nechako
Regional Transit Service
Committee**

Moved by Director Lindstrom
Seconded by Director Illes

RTC.2016-3-4

“That the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve the “Draft” Terms of Reference for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Bachrach commented that the “Draft” Terms of Reference identify potential committee members are potential funding commitments. Chair Miller mentioned that the Terms of Reference remain a “Draft” document until the Regional Transit Committee has all partners participating. Ms. West spoke to the importance of working with all of the First Nations communities.

**SPECIAL IN-CAMERA
MEETING MOTION**

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Bachrach

RTC.2016-3-5

“In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*- it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90 (1)(k) the negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held public (Highway 16 Transit Cost Apportionment) or information received relating to these matters must be closed to the public therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

Opposed: Director Fisher
Director Thiessen

CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

Regional Transit Committee Special In-Camera Meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Reconvened Regional Transit Meeting at 2:17 p.m.

REPORT

Transit Committee Preliminary Cost Calculations

Discussion took place regarding municipal council consideration of the memo titled "Transit Committee Preliminary Cost Calculations." The District of Fort St. James, Villages of Fraser Lake, Burns Lake and Telkwa and Town of Smithers will be bringing the memo forward at their council meetings during the week of November 7-10, 2016 for consideration. Director Repen noted the Village of Telkwa's support for the transit system in principal and recognizes the funding challenges being experienced. Director Bachrach mentioned that there have been discussions with Moricetown in regard to the service gap between Moricetown and Smithers and the Town of Smithers is investigating options to partner with Moricetown to mitigate the service gap. The District of Houston has considered supporting the service.

Director Fisher indicated his support of the transit system utilizing grant in aid contributions at this time in the amount of \$1,000. He spoke to advocating for the use of Federal Gas Tax funds for services such as transit. He suggested the potential and staff to develop a strategy to advocate for the use Federal Gas Tax funds. Discussion took place regarding the criteria for Federal Gas Tax funds.

Discussion took place regarding the startup costs and the allocation of those costs over the current three year term. Chair Miller mentioned that the allocations may change depending on the commitment of partners. He has spoken with Chief Wilf Adam, Lake Babine Nation and indicated there was support from LBN. Ms. West spoke to capacity challenges faced by some of the First Nations communities and suggested that visiting those communities would be beneficial. Chair Miller commented that in conversations with INAC (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada), they have agreed to provide funding for travel costs for First Nations representatives to attend the Regional Transit Committee meetings.

Director Thiessen mentioned that Saik'uz First Nation is indicated to be "On Corridor" and they are "Off Corridor." Director Thiessen suggested having a conversation with Saik'uz First Nation in regard to their willingness to participate in the transit system.

Discussion took place regarding the preliminary cost calculations; there can be reconsiderations and adjustments depending on the potential for rural contribution through grant in aid and other potential partners.

Director Parker indicated his support for the transit system and spoke to the Village of Fraser Lake investigating the opportunity to purchase a bus and he showed his support for that initiative.

Chair Miller reiterated his and Director Bachrach's commitment to meet with the First Nations in the future to discuss the Regional Transit System and cost calculations.

Director Thiessen spoke of his support of the transit system but voiced concerns regarding the cost implications to the District of Vanderhoof. He noted the need for the Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit System to be a regional system. Chair Miller spoke to communities needing to determine the threshold in which they are able to contribute and that there is support to find a solution.

Chair Miller commented that he has spoken to the College of New Caledonia and they outlined the potential benefits to their students in having a transit system. He mentioned the economic and social benefit that a transit system would have in the region.

Discussion took place regarding the constraints of legislative requirements that are a consideration moving forward with developing a funding model.

REPORT (CONT'D)

Transit Committee Preliminary
Cost Calculations – Item to be
Brought Forward to Public
Meeting Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Repen

RTC.2016-3-6

“That the Regional Transit Committee receive the Chief Administrative Officer’s October 26, 2016 memo titled “Transit Committee Preliminary Cost Calculations be brought forward to a public meeting.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Bachrach

RTC.2016-3-7

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:48 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

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* MOTION TO BRING
Forward to
Public Agenda

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE
(Committee of the Whole)

SPECIAL MEETING (IN-CAMERA)

Thursday, September 22, 2016

PRESENT: Chair Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach – via teleconference 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Eileen Benedict
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Rob MacDougall
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Luke Strimbold
Gerry Thiessen

Director Shane Brienen, District of Houston

Absent

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Administrator
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation Policy and Programs, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – via teleconference – 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Silas Brownsey, Executive Director, Transit Branch, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – via teleconference - 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Zoe Dillon, District of Vanderhoof – via teleconference – 11:10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Chris Fudge, Senior Regional Transit Manager, BC Transit – via teleconference – 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Chief Larry Nooski, Nadleh Whut'en Band
Tania Wegitz, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning, BC Transit
Anne Yanciw, CAO, Town of Smithers – via teleconference – 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

CALL ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Alternate Director Illes

RTC.IC.2016-1-1

“That the agenda of the September 22, 2016 Regional Transit Committee Special Meeting (In-Camera) be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Miller welcomed all those in attendance in person and via teleconference to the inaugural Regional Transit Committee Meeting.

DELEGATION

BC TRANSIT – Tania Wegitz, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning; MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs RE: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit

Chair Miller welcomed Tania Wegitz, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning, BC Transit and Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

Mmes.Wegitz and Harmon provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit Engagement Update & Next Steps – September 2016

Key Objectives

Proposed Recommendations:

- Provide feedback on revised proposals;
- Approve moving service forward to implementation;
- Direct staff to work with BC Transit to finalize & sign Implementation Agreement MOU to initiate implementation and procurement processes.

In Support of This:

- Provide overview of engagement themes heard;
- Discuss proposed revisions and next steps based on this feedback;
- Act as a resource to local cost-sharing and partnership discussions.

Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit Engagement: By the Numbers

- 750 Kilometres of big, beautiful corridor;
- 32 - Number of days;
- 5 - Additional group meetings;
- 20 - Community engagement events;
- 720 - Engagement event participants;
- 250 - Paper surveys completed;
- 753 - Online surveys completed;
- Too Many To Count – Thank yous.

Key Themes

- **Overall, extremely positive:**
 - o Positive feedback: community access, opportunity;
 - o Concern: relation to hitchhiking, other providers;
 - o Off corridor communities, more service.
- **Specific feedback on routing, schedules, stops:**
 - o Three days per week recommended, mix of days, longer time at destinations;

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

BC TRANSIT – Tania Wegitz, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning; MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs RE: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit

- **Strong support for fares:**
 - o Comments: Too low? Further subsidy?
 - o Fare options for shorter travel discussed;
 - o Alignment with existing systems;
- **Stop & shelter locations generally supported;**
- **Policies and amenities;**
 - o Need for more space for parcels, bags;
 - o Clarification around policies related to youth travel;
 - o Clarification around policies related to hitchhikers, passenger safety.

Burns Lake to Prince George

Proposed Service:

- One round trip per day;
- 4-5 hour window in Prince George;
- Offset from Burns Lake – Smithers:
 - o Recommended: Three days/week;
 - o Suggested: Tue, Thu, Sat;
- **Short local loops:**
 - o Potential: Wet'suwet'en First Nation;
 - o Burns Lake;
 - o Stellaquo: +Shelter;
 - o Fraser Lake: via Seniors Centre;
 - o Nadleh Whut'en: Nautley Gas Bar;
 - o Vanderhoof (Connection point + washroom break);
- **Prince George routing:**
 - o Westgate Mall, Pine Centre, Spruceland Mall, Hospital, Downtown, on demand.

Burns Lake to Smithers more relevant.

Hazeltons Area to Terrace

Proposed Service:

- One round trip per day;
- 4-5 hour window in Terrace:
 - o Option 3a: two days/week;
 - o Option 3b: three days/week;
 - o Suggested: Tue, Thu, Sat;
- **Short local loops:**
 - o Hazeltons area;
 - o Gitwangak + Health Centre stop;
 - o Gitaus;
 - o Terrace;
- **Connection Points:**
 - o Gitwanga;
 - o Terrace.

Infrastructure

- Plan now updated in partnership with MoTI, local governments, First Nations;
- Further outreach happening as required with these groups and property owners;
- Part of overall implementation.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

BC TRANSIT – Tania Wegitz, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning; MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs RE: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit

Proposed Fare Structure

- **Single \$5.00 cash fare** for all new transit services along Highway 16;
- **Sheet of 10 Tickets: \$45;**
- Children five and under travel free if with paying guardian;
- **BC Bus Pass:**
 - o Universal bus pass for low income seniors, people with a disability;
- **Future consideration:** fares for areas that overlap local services.

Next Steps

- Service Area Segment Meetings
- Revise Options
 - o Detailed scheduling;
 - o Revise route maps;
 - o Confirm stop locations;
 - o Assess vehicles;
 - o Finalize operating details;
 - o Finalize schedules, routes;
 - o Confirm service hours;
 - o Build infrastructure;
 - o Order signage;
 - o Prepare vehicles;
 - o Create marketing materials;
 - o Coordinate with other providers;
 - o Ramp up operating centres;
 - o Deliver & prepare vehicles;
 - o Train new staff;
 - o Install signage, wayfinding;
- Finalize governance & agreement strategy;
- Begin procurement process;
- Conduct further engagement;
- Finalize Implementation plan and agreements;
- Implement service.

Key Objectives

Proposed Recommendations:

- Provide feedback on revised proposals;
- Approve moving service forward to implementation;
- Direct staff to work with BC Transit to finalize & sign Implementation Agreement MOU to initiate implementation and procurement processes.

Highway 16 Action Plan: Existing and Proposed Inter-Community Transit Services – Draft Proposed Design: New Service

- **Three transit hubs:**
 - o Burns Lake, Hazelton, Terrace;
- **Layers of Service**
 - o End-to-end existing providers;
 - o BC Transit;
 - o Community-led connections.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

BC TRANSIT – Tania Wegitz, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning; MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs RE: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit

Discussion took place in regard to Moricetown being absent from the proposed routes. Director Fisher mentioned the resolution made by the Regional Board in regard to supporting the Town of Smithers in its request for the inclusion of Moricetown in the transit system. Silas Brownsey, Executive Director, Transit Branch, MoTI commented that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is aware of the request to include Moricetown in the transit system and is currently working on logistics. Ms. Wegitz noted that they have met with Moricetown and discussion took place regarding increased capacity daily between the Hazeltons and Smithers and more consistent service for commuters between Moricetown and Smithers.

Burns Lake, being the divisional point for transportation service from Burns Lake to Prince George and Burns Lake to Smithers, was discussed. Challenges associated with layovers in regard to commuters travelling for example from Houston to Prince George was brought forward. Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Programs Division, MoTI spoke to the commitment by MoTI and BC Transit to work with other agencies: Northern Health Connections Bus, First Nations Health Authority, Via Rail and Greyhound to avoid stranded passengers and minimal layovers.

Discussion took place regarding the release of information in regard to the Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit System to RDBN Municipal Councils, First Nations and the public in order to have meaningful dialogue. Director Repen voiced the need to work through potential issues and involve councils in the discussion. Ms. Wegitz mentioned that a follow up report could be completed that itemizes the options that are being discussed today and the report could be brought forward to councils. Mr. Brownsey also noted the desire of MoTI to share information with councils and indicated that MoTI supports the RDBN in bringing forward information. He mentioned that MoTI is willing to attend in person or via teleconference any meetings to assist in sharing information. If documentation and information does not include funding considerations, procurement and some agreement information and governance allows, it can be released in the public domain for discussion.

Director Repen spoke to the challenges that may materialize with the costs associated with riding the current existing bus that travels from Telkwa to Smithers for \$2.50 or the proposed Highway 16 Transit bus for \$5. He also spoke to the importance of including Moricetown in the transit system.

Director Bachrach noted the Town of Smithers' appreciation for the consultation process undertaken by MoTI and BC Transit. Discussion took place regarding the two trips a day between Burns Lake, Houston and Smithers and the proposed time available in Smithers to conduct business.

Concerns were brought forward regarding the short period of time in which the Province is moving the process forward to implementation. The need for further consultation with First Nations was discussed. It is important to have involvement and conversations in regard to funding models in order to strengthen the implementation of the service.

Discussion took place regarding the Community Transportation Vehicle Program outreach. MoTI and BC Transit are planning to complete the outreach in the beginning of October, 2016 and are considering utilizing a webinar system to reach as many communities and stakeholders as possible. The webinar will include the Community Transportation Vehicle Program information, benefits and criteria and will provide an overview of the application process. The Ministry is also working with the First Nation Health Authority to provide the opportunity for First Nations communities to participate in the webinar. The deadline for the application for the program has been extended to the end of October, 2016.

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

BC TRANSIT – Tania Wegitz, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning; MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Linda Harmon, Transit Crown Agency Programs RE: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit

Cost sharing was discussed and concerns were brought forward regarding the challenges associated with developing a funding model when not all the potential partners are part of the discussions. Director Fisher mentioned the need to develop cost sharing scenarios with basic assumptions to determine the possibilities moving forward.

Chief Larry Nooski, Nadleh Whut'en Band noted that there is no protocol in place that outlines how the Province, local government and First Nations can work together to move forward with a Transit System. He spoke of the need to develop an engagement protocol with First Nations, the RDBN and communities to ensure protection for all parties. Chief Nooski mentioned that the support from the Regional Board for First Nations thoughts and plans is encouraging. There is a need to ensure safety for the general public and to develop a structure that enables all stakeholders to work together.

BC Transit – RE: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit -Release to Public Meeting Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Fisher

RTC.I.C.2016-1-2

“That the Regional Transit Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors release future Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit information at a public meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Direction was given to staff to develop cost sharing model scenarios to bring forward at a future Regional Transit Committee. Chair Miller mentioned that he would be willing to work with Chief Nooski to develop and move forward with an engagement protocol to specifically engage with First Nations and all partners.

Ms. Wegitz mentioned that BC Transit and MoTI will develop a summary report and recommendations from today's meeting. She also underscored the possible length of the procurement process.

Chair Miller thanked Mmes. Wegwitz and Harmon for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Liversidge
Seconded by Director Repen

RTC.I.C.2016-1-3

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:15 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
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November 14, 2016

Melany de Weerd,
Chief Administrative Officer
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Transmitted by e-mail: melany.deweerd@rdbn.bc.ca

Dear Ms. de Weerd,

Re: Highway 16 Inter-Community Transit

At the City of Prince George regular Council meeting held November 9, 2016, Council gave consideration to the Draft Highway 16 Action Plan for Inter-Community Transit provided by BC Transit. City Council discussed their interest in participating in the continued development of this plan through representation on the newly established Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit Committee and the following resolution was passed:

THAT Council APPOINTS Mayor Hall as the representative and Councillor Merrick as the alternate representative of the City of Prince George on the Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit Committee.

To coordinate meeting schedules and distribution of documents related to the Committee, please contact Dyra Pridham, Executive Assistant at (250) 561-7691 or dyra.pridham@princegeorge.ca.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at (250) 561-7793 or maureen.connelly@princegeorge.ca.

Sincerely,

Maureen Connelly
Deputy Corporate Officer

Cc: Kathleen Soltis, City Manager, City of Prince George
Tiina Schaeffer, Manager of Sustainable Community Development, City of Prince George
Dyra Pridham, Executive Assistant, City of Prince George



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NOV 08 2016

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF
BULKLEY NECHAKO



**HEART &
STROKE
FOUNDATION**

COMMUNITIES ON THE MOVE DECLARATION: CREATING SMART, FAIR AND HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR ALL BC COMMUNITIES

VISION

We envision that in 10 years, across BC - in communities small and large, it will be easy, safe and enjoyable to get around, whether by walking, biking, public transit, driving, ride-sharing or in a wheelchair. We want to see the provincial government making progressive investments that support active, connected and healthy communities with a wide range of mobility needs.

This vision is guided by the following VALUES:

- **Safety for All Road Users:** The design and rules of the road should work towards a goal of zero fatalities so all British Columbians can arrive at their destination safely.
- **Healthy Communities:** It is easier for British Columbians to be active and healthy when there are safe biking and walking routes, good street design and regular transit.
- **Mobility for All:** Communities of all sizes need transportation options to enable everyone – including vulnerable groups such as children, older adults and those with disabilities or low incomes as well as non-drivers – to access education, employment, healthcare, recreation and cultural events and to foster important social connections.
- **Clean Air and Environment:** Public transit, telecommuting and active modes of transportation reduce local air pollution and carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.
- **Consideration of Community Needs:** All BC communities should have a range of convenient, affordable transportation options that are tailored to their context – whether urban or remote, dense or dispersed, small or suburban.
- **Cost Savings and Economic Opportunities:** Investments in active and public transportation can help to control rising healthcare costs while stimulating local business and tourism.

What will it take:

- **Increased support and long-term funding for transit**
 - Provide full funding (\$400M/year) and policy support for implementation of the BC Transit Strategic Plan 2030 and local government 'Transit Future Plans' to grow transit service and meet local needs.¹
 - Provide a fair share of capital funding and secure, predictable regional revenue tools for the full implementation of the TransLink Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision.
 - Provide funding for public transportation systems that serve small, rural, remote and isolated communities such as the use of school buses and bus services that feed into regional centres.

- **A Provincial Active Transportation Strategy**
 - Allocate \$100M per year over the next ten years to support the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure within a larger provincial network.² Priority should go to completing connected cycling and walking transportation networks.
 - Fund Active School Travel Planning and standardized cycling education for healthy, active children.
 - Increase capacity within the Ministry of Transportation by developing an Active Transportation unit that has the professional expertise to work on policy and planning.

- **Commitment to equity**
 - Improve handyDART service to meet demand and to expand accessibility to evenings, Sundays and holidays.
 - Revert back to the \$45 annual fee for Annual Bus Passes for Persons-with-Disability.
 - Ensure all public transit systems have affordable options for people with low incomes.
 - Ensure funding is allocated geographically and equitably across the province. Recognize infrastructure deficits for pedestrian, cycling and transit modes as well as limitations faced by rural, remote, geographically isolated and small communities as part of funding criteria.

¹ Analysis by [David Suzuki Foundation](#) shows that although \$4.75 billion in provincial funds was promised in the 2008 Provincial Transit Plan – eight years into the 12-year plan, only 23 per cent per cent (\$1.1 billion) of the provincial contributions have been realized. DSF calculates that an average annual investment of \$400 M would be required to bridge the funding gap and add the capacity and level of service necessary to reduce traffic congestion, increase ridership and meet the 2020 Climate Change goals as outlined in the 2008 plan.

² \$100 million is an estimate for BC based on our population and what leading jurisdictions spend per person, per year on active transportation infrastructure (Netherlands \$40/person/year; Winnipeg \$32/person/year; Brisbane \$51/person/year; London \$27/person/year). This may seem like a large request but not in terms of transportation infrastructure costs, for example this amount is very close to what the Ministry of Transportation is spending to renovate a single interchange on Highway 1.

- **Regional considerations**

- Work with local governments to establish a Rural Transportation Strategy. Develop and fund innovative community transportation systems, ride-sharing, tele-services and telecommuting options that can serve rural and remote British Columbians including those who can't drive or don't have access to a vehicle.
- Provide support for the development and implementation of Winter City Guidelines that give residents the opportunity to be active all year long. This should include operational measures such as snow-clearing for active transportation networks and improved winter road maintenance to reduce accidents.
- Update Traffic Engineering Standards for managing industrial traffic in resource based communities so that they guide improvements in air quality, pedestrian and cycling movement as well as safety.
- Support the Metro Vancouver Mayor's Council to pursue alternative funding mechanisms – such as vehicle levies, road pricing (including tolling), local fuel and parking taxes and expansion of community/group passes.
- Continue and expand the UPASS program to the students and employees of postsecondary institutions.

- **Commitment to Safety**

- Support the BC Road Safety Strategy and work with all levels of government and other partners to achieve a goal of safe streets and zero fatalities. Speed limits should be reduced and strictly enforced, including through the use of speed cameras and other proven measures.
- Prioritize safety measures for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and those in wheelchairs and mobility devices.

[Click Here to Sign Our Declaration and Join the Call for a Healthier British Columbia for ALL!](#)