



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**Thursday, December 10, 2020**

**1:00 P.M.**

**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Boardroom**

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
2-15	Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1/Regional Transit Coordinator – Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Annual Operating Agreement Amendment	Receive

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**



## Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Supplementary Memo

**TO:** Chair Greenaway and Regional Transit Committee

**FROM:** Deneve Vanderwolf, Planner 1/Regional Transit Coordinator

**DATE:** December 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Annual Operating Agreement Amendment

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### RECOMMENDATION

(all/directors/majority)

Receipt

### **Background**

This memo is information for the Regional Transit Committee. The attached amended AOA will go forward to the January 28, 2021 Board meeting with a recommendation for approval.

The Province has initiated its 'BC Restart Plan', which lays out a series of steps intended to protect people and help ensure that British Columbia can recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the federal 'Safe Restart' program the federal and provincial governments have committed to provide joint contributions in support of transit services. BC Transit has entered into a Contribution Agreement to receive \$86 million to provide relief to Local Government Partners to help meet their share of costs to maintain affordable Essential Transit Service Levels during the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period.

The Safe Restart Contribution of \$86 million was based on forecasted fare revenue losses and COVID related expenses between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2022. Local Government Partners have been allocated a share of the Safe Restart Contribution based on their share of total budgeted fare revenues (for fare losses) and share of operating expenses (for COVID-related expenses). Under this Contribution Agreement, \$37,271 has been allocated to the Bulkley-Nechako Para Transit System.

The RDBN has received an amended AOA for 2020/21 that includes the one-time allocation of the RDBN's share of expenses for 2020/21.

### **Attachment**

2020/2021 Bulkley Nechako Amended AOA

**Bulkley-Nechako**

**ANNUAL OPERATING AGREEMENT**

**between**

**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**

**and**

**British Columbia Transit**

**Effective**

**April 1, 2020**

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT IS SUBJECT TO *THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT*. CONSULT WITH THE AUTHORITY PRIOR TO RELEASING INFORMATION TO INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES OTHER THAN THOSE WHO ARE PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT.

**ANNUAL OPERATING AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN:

**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**

(the "Municipality")

AND:

**British Columbia Transit**

(the "Authority")

WHEREAS the Authority is authorized to contract for transit services for the purpose of providing and maintaining those services and facilities necessary for the establishment, maintenance and operation of a public passenger transportation system in the Transit Service Area;

WHEREAS the Municipality is authorized to enter into one or more agreements with the Authority for transit services in the Transit Service Area;

WHEREAS the parties hereto have entered into a Transit Service Agreement which sets out the general rights and responsibilities of the parties hereto;

WHEREAS the Municipality and the Authority are authorized to share in the costs for the provision of a Public Passenger Transportation System pursuant to the *British Columbia Transit Act*;

AND WHEREAS the parties hereto wish to enter into an Annual Operating Agreement which sets out, together with the Transit Service Agreement, the specific terms and conditions for the Public Passenger Transportation System for the upcoming term.

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH that in consideration of the premises and of the covenants hereinafter contained, the parties covenant and agree with each other as follows:

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## SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

Unless agreed otherwise in the Annual Operating Agreement, the definitions set out in the Transit Service Agreement shall apply to this Annual Operating Agreement including:

- a) "Annual Operating Agreement" shall mean this Annual Operating Agreement and any Annual Operating Agreement Amendments negotiated and entered into by the parties subsequent hereto;
- b) "Transit Service Agreement" shall mean the Transit Service Agreement between the parties to this Annual Operating Agreement, including any amendments made thereto;

## SECTION 2: INCORPORATION OF SCHEDULES

All schedules to this agreement are incorporated into the agreement, and form part of the agreement.

## SECTION 3: INCORPORATION OF TRANSIT SERVICE AGREEMENT

Upon execution, this Annual Operating Agreement shall be deemed integrated into the Transit Service Agreement and thereafter the Transit Service Agreement and Annual Operating Agreement shall be read together as a single integrated document and shall be deemed to be the Annual Operating Agreement for the purposes of the *British Columbia Transit Act*, as amended from time to time.

## SECTION 4: TERM AND RENEWAL

- a) The parties agree that the effective date of this agreement is to be April 1, 2020, whether or not the agreements have been fully executed by the necessary parties. Once this agreement and the associated Transit Service Agreement are duly executed, this agreement will replace all provisions in the existing Transit Service Agreement and Master Operating Agreement with respect to the rights and obligations as between the Authority and the Municipality.
- b) Upon commencement in accordance with Section 4(a) of this agreement, the term of this agreement shall be to March 31, 2021 except as otherwise provided herein. It is acknowledged by the parties that in the event of termination or non-renewal of the Annual Operating Agreement, the Transit Service Agreement shall likewise be so terminated or not renewed, as the case may be.
- c) Either party may terminate this agreement as follows:
  - a. Cancellation by the Authority: In the event that the Authority decides to terminate this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, the Authority shall provide at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior written notice. Such notice to be provided in accordance with Section 10.
  - b. Cancellation by the Municipality: In the event that the Municipality decides to terminate this Transit Service Agreement for any reason whatsoever, and by extension the Annual Operating Agreement, the Municipality shall provide at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior written notice. Such notice to be provided in accordance with Section 10.

## SECTION 5: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

This Agreement and the parties hereto are subject to the provisions of the *Freedom Of Information And Protection Of Privacy Act* ("FOIPPA"). Any information developed in the performance of this Agreement, or any personal information obtained, collected, stored pursuant

to this Agreement, including database information, shall be deemed confidential and subject to the provisions of the FOIPPA including the handling, storage, access and security of such information. Confidential information shall not be disclosed to any third party except as expressly permitted by the Authority or pursuant to the requirements of the FOIPPA.

## SECTION 6: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

In the event of any dispute arising between or among the parties as to their respective rights and obligations under this Agreement, or in the event of a breach of this Agreement, the parties agree to use their best efforts to find resolution through a mediated settlement. However, in the event that mediation is not successful in finding a resolution satisfactory to all parties involved, any party shall be entitled to give to the other notice of such dispute and to request arbitration thereof; and the parties may, with respect to the particular matter then in dispute, agree to submit the same to a single arbitrator in accordance with the applicable statutes of the Province of British Columbia.

## SECTION 7: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- a) Amendment: This agreement may only be amended in writing signed by the Municipality and the Authority and specifying the effective date of the amendment.
- b) Assignment: This Agreement shall not be assignable without prior written consent of the parties.
- c) Enurement: This Agreement shall be binding upon and enure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors.
- d) The parties agree that this agreement is in substantial compliance with all relevant legislative requirements to establish the rights and obligations of the parties as set out in the *British Columbia Transit Act*.

## SECTION 8: LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESERVES

British Columbia Transit service is provided using a cost sharing model. Where any transit related contributions are received and/or third party revenues are earned that are in excess of expenses, the Authority is required to hold these excess funds in a reserve account for use against transit related expenditures in future years. When unanticipated expenditures occur that were not included in the budget and cannot be covered by reserves, the Authority will seek to recover these based on the cost sharing ratios between the Municipality and the Authority.

### Eligible Operating Expenses

The Authority will invoice the Municipality and collect on monthly Municipal invoices based on budgeted Eligible Operating Expenses to provide Transit Service. Eligible Operating Expenses are comprised of the following costs of providing Public Passenger Transportation Systems:

- a. *For Conventional Transit Service:*
  - i. the operating costs incurred in providing Conventional Transit Service excluding interest and amortization;
  - ii. the amount of any operating lease costs incurred by BC Transit for Conventional Transit Services;
  - iii. the amount of the municipal administration charge not exceeding 2 percent of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement;
  - iv. an amount of the annual operating costs of the Authority not exceeding 8 percent of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement;
- b. *For Custom Transit Service:*

- i. the operating costs incurred in providing Custom Transit Service excluding interest and amortization, but including the amount paid by the Authority to redeem taxi saver coupons issued under the Taxi Saver Program net of the amount realized from the sale of those coupons;
  - ii. the amount of any operating lease costs incurred by the Authority for Custom Transit Service;
  - iii. the amount of the municipal administration charge not exceeding 2 percent of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement; and,
  - iv. an amount of the annual operating costs of the Authority not exceeding 8 percent of the direct operating costs payable under an Annual Operating Agreement;
- c. Eligible Operating Expenses exclude the costs of providing third-party 100 percent-funded services.

### **Lease Fees**

The Authority will invoice the Municipality and collect on monthly Municipal invoices for Lease Fees on assets owned by the Authority that are used in the provision of transit service. Lease Fees are comprised of the following:

- a. The Municipality's fee for use of the asset, including for the costs of acquisition, construction, development and betterment of the asset and the costs of installing the asset at the location and condition necessary for its intended use;
- b. Debt financing and risk related charges or costs payable on assets;
- c. Risk protection against vehicle write-offs, fleet defects, price volatility, preventative maintenance and major repair of assets;
- d. Amounts sufficient for the Authority to recover all other costs relating to the asset, including, but not limited to taxes and administrative charges.

Where Lease Fees are received that exceed actual asset-related expenses in any given period, these will be placed in a pooled reserve. This reserve will be used to offset against future capital related expenses, Lease Fees, vehicle write-offs, fleet defects, price volatility, preventative maintenance and major repair of assets.

For the 2020/21 fiscal year only, Lease Fees on revenue vehicles will be waived from July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. This is incorporated in the Net Local Government Share of Costs shown in Schedule C.

### **Reserve Funds**

The Authority will establish Reserve Funds for each transit system to record the contributions that have been received but not yet earned as follows:

- a. **Operating Reserve Fund:** Contributions by the Municipality towards Eligible Operating Expenses that have been matched with a Provincial share Contribution but have not been used to fund incurred Eligible Operating Expenses.
  - i. Any expenditure of monies from the Operating Reserve Fund will only be credited towards shareable Eligible Operating Expenses for the transit system for which it was collected.
  - ii. The Operating Reserve Fund excludes amounts collected from the Municipality on Lease Fees and will not be used toward Lease Fees.
  - iii. The Authority will provide a quarterly statement of account of the reserve balance including contributions, amounts utilized and any interest earned for the Operating Reserve.

- b. **Local Transit Fund:** Contributions by the Municipality towards Eligible Operating Expenses that have been received but not matched with a Provincial share contribution will be deferred in the Local Transit Fund.
- i. Any expenditure of monies from the Local Transit Fund will:
    1. only be credited towards the Municipality's share of expenses for the transit system for which it was collected.
    2. be applied to reduce Municipal invoices at the discretion of the Municipality as agreed to under the Annual Operating Agreement or amendments as required.
  - ii. The Local Transit Fund may be used towards Lease Fees.
  - iii. The Authority will provide a quarterly statement of account of the reserve balance including contributions, amounts utilized and interest earned for the Local Transit Fund.

## SECTION 9: SAFE RESTART CONTRIBUTION

Under the Safe Restart program, the federal and provincial governments have provided a joint one-time contribution to transit systems in BC (the "Safe Restart Contribution").

Subject to execution of this Annual Operating Agreement by January 31, 2021 the Authority will apply the Safe Restart Contribution as follows:

- a. As a one-time allocation towards the Municipality's share of Eligible Operating Expenses;
- b. After applying the allocation of Safe Restart Contribution, any excess contributions received from the Municipality will be deferred to the Local Transit Fund;
- c. The Authority will apply the remaining Local Transit Fund balance to reduce future Municipal invoices at the discretion of Local Government Partners as agreed to under an Annual Operating Agreement or amendments as required.

It is expected that by receiving the Safe Restart contribution the Municipality will work with the Authority to maintain targeted essential transit service levels by not reducing transit service below existing planned service levels and maintain affordability by limiting annual fare increases to 2.3% through March 31, 2024.

## SECTION 10: GOVERNING LAW

This agreement is governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, the laws of the Province of British Columbia, with respect to those matters within provincial jurisdiction, and in accordance with the laws of Canada with respect to those matters within the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada.

## SECTION 11: COUNTERPARTS

This contract and any amendment hereto may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which shall be considered to be one and the same contract. A signed facsimile or pdf copy of this contract, or any amendment, shall be effective and valid proof of execution and delivery.

## SECTION 12: NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

All notices, claims and communications required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently given if personally delivered to a designated officer of the parties

hereto to whom it is addressed where an electronic signed document is emailed to the parties or if mailed by prepaid registered mail to the Authority at:

**British Columbia Transit**

c/o Executive Assistant, Business Development

P.O. Box 9861

520 Gorge Road East

Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9T5

and to the Municipality at:

**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**

c/o Chief Administrative Officer

37 3rd Avenue

PO Box 820

Burns Lake, B.C. V0J 1E0

and, if so mailed, shall be deemed to have been received five (5) days following the date of such mailing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**British Columbia Transit**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President, Business Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer

## SCHEDULE "A": TARIFF AND FARES

### APPENDIX 1: TARIFF NOTES

Passenger Categories: There shall be the following passenger categories:

- a) Child - a person who is under six (6) years of age.
- b) Student - a person, other than a child, who is:
  - a) under the age of 21 years; and
  - i. regularly attending classes at a public or private school at or below the level of Grade 12; and
  - ii. the holder of a current Student I.D. Card or other identification approved by the Municipality.
- c) Senior - a person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or over and the holder of valid identification.
- d) Adult - a person not defined as a child, student or senior.

Mode of Payment: There shall be the following modes of payment:

- a) Fare - an entitlement to ride upon the services of the Public Passenger Transportation System, as defined in terms of the Passenger Category, time and Zones of travel.
- b) Cash - legal tender issued by the authority of the Government of Canada for use as money, or the equivalent in legal tender issued by the authority of the Government of the United States of America for use as money
- c) Ticket - a prepaid form of fare, issued by the Municipality, for use in lieu of cash, for payment of a single fare.
- d) Single Fare - payment of a fare by means of cash or ticket, for individual travel within designated zones, and within a specified period of time.
- e) BC Bus Pass - a Pass available to BC residents who receive:
  - Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement with the Old Age Security Pension or Spouse's Allowance (60 years and older);or
  - Disability allowance under BC Benefits (18-64 years of age)
- f) Canadian National Institute of the Blind Pass – a pass available to those who are certified by the Institute and are residents of B.C.

Terms and Conditions: There shall be the following terms and conditions:

- a) Young Children - Not more than four children under five years of age who board a vehicle with, and who are at all times accompanied by an Adult, Student or Senior, shall be carried free.
- b) Proof of fare when boarding - Each passenger boarding a transit vehicle must present proof of a valid fare by means of either:
  - i) deposit of correct Fare in the farebox, plus presentation of any entitlement to a reduced fare; or
- c) BC Bus Pass - A Provincial Pass honoured only upon compliance with all of the following conditions:
  - i) valid only for year indicated;
  - ii) valid only when presented face-up and unfolded; void if mutilated or altered;
  - iii) valid only when presented with signature of bearer.
- d) CNIB Pass - A Canadian National Institute of the Blind pass will be honoured only upon compliance of the following conditions:
  - i) valid only for year indicated;
  - ii) valid only when presented face-up and unfolded; void if mutilated or altered;
  - iii) valid only when presented with signature of bearer.

## APPENDIX 2: TARIFF AND FARES

**Fares:** For each one-way passenger trip

*Effective as of June 19, 2017*

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| a) | Cash Fares  |         |
|    | Adult/Students/Seniors  | \$5.00  |
|    | Child (5 or under)  | Free    |
| b) | Tickets (sheet of 10):  |         |
|    | Adult/Students/Seniors  | \$45.00 |
| c) | BC Bus Pass valid for the current calendar year and available through the Government of British Columbia BC Bus Pass Program. |         |
| d) | CNIB Identification Card available from the local office of the CNIB.   |         |
| f) | BC Transit Employee Bus Pass  |         |

Fares valid on Regional Service only.

## SCHEDULE "B": SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

The Local Transit Service Area for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit service shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Town of Smithers, the Village of Telkwa, the District of Houston, the Village of Granisle, the Village of Burns Lake, the Village of Fraser Lake, the District of Fort St. James, and the District of Vanderhoof, as per Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Bylaw No. 1790.

The Annual Service Level for Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service shall be **2,700** Revenue Service Hours.

The Exception Days recognized annually for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service are:

<b>Exception Day</b>	<b>Service Level</b>
Good Friday	No Service
Easter Monday	Regular Service
Victoria Day	No Service
Canada Day	No Service
BC Day	No Service
Labour Day	No Service
Thanksgiving Day	No Service
Remembrance Day	No Service
Christmas Day	No Service
Boxing Day	No Service
New Years Day	No Service
Family Day	No Service

## SCHEDULE "C": BUDGET

<b>BULKLEY-NECHAKO</b>	
	<b>OFFICIAL AOA AMENDMENT #1 2020/21</b>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,027
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$391,277
TOTAL COSTS (including Local Government Share of Lease Fees)	\$392,380
NET LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF COSTS	\$92,259
SAFE RESTART ALLOCATION	\$37,271