



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Thursday, November 06, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Approve

MINUTES

Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes - May 9, 2024

Page 2-5

Receive

DELEGATIONS

BC Transit - via Zoom

Matt O'Halloran, Government Relations Manager

Re: Update

REPORTS

**Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services -
Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Update**

Page 6-13

Receive

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING****(Committee of the Whole)****Thursday, May 9, 2024**

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Gladys Atrill Shane Brienens – via Zoom, arrived at 1:07 p.m. Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert – via Zoom Linda McGuire Stoney Stoltenberg Henry Wiebe – via Zoom Sarrah Storey - via Zoom
	Directors Absent	Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa Shirley Moon, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof Chris Newell, Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)
	Alternate Directors	Doug Bysouth, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Brian Frenkel, District of Vanderhoof Alex Kulchar, Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – via Zoom Elijah Newell, Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician/Regional Transit Coordinator Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
	Others	Lara Beckett, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Dave Bradshaw, Manager Transportation and Technical Services, City of Prince George Michael Coulson, Transit Planner, City of Prince George– via Zoom – arrived at 1:01 p.m. Lindsay Taylor, Government Relations Manager, BC Transit – via Zoom
	Media	Jeremy Hull, LD News – via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RTC.2024-1-1

"That the Regional Transit Agenda of May 9, 2024 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Regional Transit Committee
Minutes – June 8, 2023

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Alternate Director Kulchar

RTC.2024-1-2

"That the Regional Transit Committee meeting minutes of June 8, 2023 be receive."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

BC TRANSIT – Lindsay Taylor, Manager, Government Relations -Northern BC Re: NextRide and Customer Alert System

Chair Parker welcomed Lindsay Taylor, Manager, Government Relations-Northern BC, BC Transit.

Ms. Taylor provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

NextRide and Customer Alert System

- Introduction
- Annual Communication
- Bulkley Nechako Ridership Update
- Slight Re-Routing on 161
- NextRide Update.

Director Atrill noted that it is reassuring that NextRide and Customer Alert System is active and provides real-time locations of buses. Director Atrill had the opportunity to ride the bus and commented that the Board should take the opportunity to also ride the bus.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Taylor for attending the meeting.

REPORT

Update on BC Transit Bus Service Funding and Bylaw

Moved by Director Elphee
Seconded by Director Atrill

RTC.2024-1-3

"That the Board ratify the April 15, 2024 Public Transportation in the RDBN Letter to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee discussed the following:

- Municipalities requesting the Board's consideration to have them removed from the service
 - Removal of bus stop if service is removed from a municipality
- Utilizing reserves to currently fund the service
- Northern Development Initiative Trust's (NDIT) Bus the North Campaign
- Committee of the Whole meeting/discussion with NDIT and BC Transit to review future considerations
 - Community and Inter-Community benefits
 - Communication and consultation with all bus systems and networks
- Rural Directors contributing grant in aid in the past
- Fee structure review and possible increase
 - Fair evasion
 - Minimizing driver and customer conflict
 - Community liaison in some communities
 - Potential for a sliding scale fair structure
- Need for a long-term funding commitment from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to move forward
- Requesting the Province work with all partners to determine a solution for the future
- Providing transportation support to everyone in the region
- Value of bus stop in Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Electoral Area C (Chilako River-Nechako)
 - Provided support through grant in aid in the past
 - Would support a grant in aid request
- Use of grant in aid
- Government funding of transit throughout the Province - not user pay system
- Providing safe transportation throughout the region.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RTC.2024-1-4

"That the meeting be adjourned at 1:38 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Committee

To: Chair and Committee
From: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development
Date: November 6, 2025
Subject: **Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Update**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive

DISCUSSION

This report is an update on activities related to the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service for 2025.

Provincial Funding Formula

In March 2025, the RDBN received the attached correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit confirming that the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service will continue to be funded under its current funding model for the 2025/26 fiscal year and the following two fiscal years. Under this model the Province covers 66.7% of operational costs for the service.

Service Establishment Bylaw Amendment Bylaw

On March 13, 2025, "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2055, 2024" was adopted (attached). This bylaw amended the service establishment bylaw by removing the Village of Telkwa as a participant in the service and increasing the maximum annual taxation requisition amount from \$90,000 (Ninety Thousand Dollars) to \$115,000 (One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars). Based on this taxation limit it is anticipated that the operational costs for the service will be supplemented by approximately \$75,000 of RBA funding annually over the next 5 years (as approved by the Board).

Route Changes

In April, the Rider's Guide was updated to reflect a route change for the 161 service in the area of the PG Hospital within the City of Prince George. BC Transit indicated that they made the

decision to relocate a bus stop as a result of feedback received through the Highway 16 Service Review.

BC Transit Staffing

In September 2025, Matt O'Halloran joined BC Transit as the new Government Relations Manager for the North Region.

Transit Service Committee Terms of Reference

In 2026 staff intend to undertake a review of the Terms of Reference for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee. This review will focus on committee membership and whether membership should be limited to service participants and funding partners.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter from MoTT Mar 27, 2025

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2055, 2024.

Transit Service Committee Terms of Reference

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This topic aligns with the following Strategic Focus Area(s) from the RDBN Strategic Plan:

1. Relationships with First Nations

Additionally, the recommendation supports the following objective(s) related to this Focus Area(s):

1.3 Investigate and identify opportunities for the RDBN to provide specific services to First Nations.



Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
PO Box 820
37 3rd Avenue
Burns Lake BC V0J 1E0

Reference: 332167

Dear Curtis Helgesen:

Re: Regional Transit Service Funding

I am writing to provide an update on funding for the regional transit service along Highway 16.

As you know, the Highway 16 regional transit service began in 2017 as part of the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan aimed at improving safe transportation along Highway 16 for First Nations and other people. The Action Plan was in response to *Foresaken: The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry*, which urged the provincial government to immediately commit to developing and implementing an enhanced public transit system to provide a safer travel option connecting the Northern communities, particularly along Highway 16.

Our government previously committed to this service to March 31, 2025, and I am pleased to let you know that the Highway 16 Regional Transit service, with the current funding model, is included in BC Transit's base operating budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year and the next two fiscal years. Going forward, the operating budget for the regional service will be built based on current service levels, which is consistent with current practice for BC Transit systems. The ministry will no longer have a separate agreement with BC Transit for the Highway 16 regional transit service; however the ministry will continue to monitor the service and is interested in ensuring that it continues to meet community needs. Please continue to work with BC Transit on the details of the service for next fiscal year and future years.

.../2

If you have questions regarding this letter or would like to discuss transportation services in your region more broadly, please contact Gillian Moxham, Project Director in the Transit Strategy and Policy Branch, at gillian.moxham@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Mukasa', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kate Mukasa, Executive Director
Transit Strategy and Policy Branch
Policy, Programs and Partnerships Division
Ministry of Transportation and Transit

Copy to: Reg Bawa, Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy, Programs and Partnerships Division

Gillian Moxham, Project Director
Transit Strategy and Policy Branch

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**BYLAW NO. 2055, 2024****A bylaw to amend the boundaries and participating areas in Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016**

WHEREAS the Board of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako wishes to amend the bylaw establishing a public transit and para-transit service within the boundaries of the Regional District;

AND WHEREAS the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities has been obtained;

AND WHEREAS participating area approval has been obtained in accordance with the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE, The Board of Directors of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

That "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1790, 2016" be amended such that:

1. Section 3 is amended to remove the Village of Telkwa from the boundaries of the Service Area.
2. Section 4 is amended to remove the Village of Telkwa as a Participating Area.
3. Section 6 is amended to increase the maximum requisition amount from \$90,000 (Ninety Thousand Dollars) to \$115,000 (One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars).

This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Regional Public Transit and Para-Transit (Highway 16) Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2055, 2024."

READ A FIRST TIME this 26th day of September, 2024.

READ A SECOND TIME this 26th day of September, 2024.

READ A THIRD TIME this 26th day of September, 2024.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 2055.



Corporate Administrator

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES this 20th day of February, 2025.

ADOPTED this 13 day of March, 2025.



Chairperson



Corporate Administrator

Terms of Reference for the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee

Purpose:

To serve as an advisory body to the local government and first nations funding partners of the Highway 16 Regional Transit Service (Burns Lake to Smithers pod and Burns Lake to Prince George pod) regarding the transit service.

Specifically:

1. To advise on extensions or changes to the existing service
2. To advise on fares and fare changes
3. To receive and review the service budget in a Closed meeting
4. To advise on infrastructure needs
5. To serve as a communications vehicle with the service provider

Authority:

Legislation

- *Local Government Act* Sections 218 and 263

Mandate:

The Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee is established under the *Local Government Act* Sections 218 and 263 to provide advice and assist BC Transit and the local government and first nation funding partners regarding transit service changes, fares, improvements, marketing, ridership, efficiencies, long term funding and governance.

Membership:

The Committee shall consist of:

- a) One (1) voting member from each of the local government funding partners Councils, excluding RDBN
- b) One (1) voting members from each electoral area of the RDBN Board of Directors,
- c) One (1) voting member from each of the First Nations funding partners
- d) Staff from the local governments, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), BC Transit and the Transit Service Provider, who will attend meetings as required as non-voting members.

Procedure:

1. All appointment to the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee must be made annually by the local governments and First Nations identified above.
2. The RDBN Chair shall be the Regional Transit Committee Chair.
3. The RDBN Vice Chair shall be the Regional Transit Committee Vice Chair.
4. The RDBN Procedure Bylaw, as amended from time to time, applies to all meetings of the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee.
5. A quorum shall be a majority of the total voting membership.
6. The Committee will meet as required, but not less than once per year, with meetings to be held at a location determined by the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee.
7. Minutes of each Committee meeting shall be kept by RDBN and forwarded to the local governments and First Nations identified above, and to MOTI and BC Transit staff for information.
8. The Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee is not a budgetary decision making body. It forwards recommendations for consideration to the local government which is signatory to the agreement.
9. No direct budget is given to this committee. All recommendations from the committee that involve budgetary expenditures will be approved by the local government which is signatory to the agreement.
10. The Committee will endeavour to seek public input when appropriate.
11. The responsibility for coordinating the meetings, taking the minutes and providing a teleconference line if required will be assumed by RDBN.
12. The mandate of the Committee shall be reviewed upon each agreement renewal or change.
13. Any funding partner may opt out of participation in the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Transit Service Committee by giving one year notice in writing to the Committee.