

City of Chilliwack
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, 3:00 pm
Dogwood Room / Held Electronically

Council Members: Councillor Jeff Shields, Co-Chair
Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair

TAC Members: Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit
Constable Mike Sabulsky, Acting NCO i/c RCMP, Traffic Section
Margaret Reid, Board of Education, Chilliwack School District #33
Marlon Hall, Chamber of Commerce
Wayne Williams, SD33, Manager of Transportation
Bryden Nelmes, Community Member
Ann McNabb, Community Member
Brent Bowker, Community Member
Dave Hill, ICBC

City Staff Members: Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage
Colette McDiarmid, Supervisor - Roads, Transportation, Drainage & Dyking
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Kara Jefford, Director of Engineering
Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Neal Moulton, Area Manager, Fraser Valley South, Ministry of Transportation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Shields called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and provided territorial acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda for Thursday, April 20,
Seconded (2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda held Thursday,
Seconded (February 23, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION

BC Transit Update – Labour Dispute

Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit, provided a brief update with respect to the current labour strike conveying some of the main points as noted below:

- The labour dispute is between BC Transit's contractor – First Transit – and their unionized employees.
- BC Transit is the Provincial Crown Agency responsible for the delivery of transit services outside of Greater Vancouver. BC Transit contracts the services of private operating companies to deliver these transit services. These companies hire and manage their own workforces.
- Job action has ceased service in the Agassiz-Harrison, Central Fraser Valley, Chilliwack and Hope transit systems as of March 20, 2023.
- Service levels for handyDART in the Fraser Valley were determined by the Labour Relations Board. HandyDART service for customers requiring transportation to renal dialysis, cancer treatment and multiple sclerosis appointments in Abbotsford and Mission has been deemed essential and will continue to operate during this service disruption. BC Transit is offering vouchers through the Taxi Saver Program to permanently registered handyDART riders which provide a 50% subsidy toward the cost of taxis.
- Key issues - wages, pension and working conditions.
- BC Transit will update customers as more information becomes available and encourages customers to sign up to receive alerts at bctransit.com. Customers may also follow @BCTransit on Twitter for updates.

General Discussion:

Discussion ensued with respect to the labour situation and it was queried whether there is anything that can be done as users of the service to assist with a resolution. Mr. Ringma noted he encourages the public and any groups to write a letter to one or all of the following - the Minister of Transportation, Minister of Labour, BC Transit, the operating company and the union, to express their concern and desire to get the two parties back to the table. The City of Chilliwack is joining the Fraser Valley Regional District and the City of Abbotsford in an appeal to the Province to appoint a mediator to intervene in the labour dispute.

Discussion ensued regarding the current labour dispute and the impact on the budget. BC Transit continues operations with respect to business continuity including fixed and variable costs and some accrued costs; BC Transit is ensuring buses will be in a 'ready' state when the dispute is resolved.

Marlon Hall, Chamber of Commerce and Wayne Williams, SD33, Manager of Transportation joined the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Mr. Williams noted the School District is issuing temporary bus passes to try to minimize the impact of the labour dispute on students who use transit.

Co-Chair Shields directed staff to forward contact information for provincial ministers to committee members who wish to write in. The contact information is as follows:

Honourable Harry Bains, Minister of Labour, PO Box 9064, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
LBR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, PO Box 9055 Prov Stn Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2 Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION (continued)

Comment was provided with respect to the transit expansion and the recent provincial announcement that transit expansion funds are being frozen for 2023, resulting in a freeze on key transit system improvements in Chilliwack. BC Transit is currently working with staff to start the budget process over and revisit the initiatives that are outlined in the Transit Future Action Plan (TFAP) ensuring they are still relevant. The request(s) will be brought back to Council in August/September 2023 for Council's approval. A brief review of the initiatives that were not approved for 2023 was outlined including expanding service hours and introducing evening and Sunday hours for handyDART riders.

The following recommendation was made:

Moved /) That Council direct staff to write a letter to the relevant provincial ministers and
Seconded (the Premier on behalf of the Transportation Advisory Committee with respect to
 the concern for the lack of expansion funding and the impact on the community.

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Ringma left the meeting at 3:55 pm.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

Colette McDiarmid, Supervisor - Roads, Transportation, Drainage & Dyking, provided an update on the following 2023 Transportation Design and Construction Projects:

Sidewalk Projects

1. Edward Street – Hodgins Avenue to Spadina Avenue
2. Yale Road – Parr Road to Vedder Road
3. Tyson Road – South Sumas to Watson
4. Keith Wilson – Tyson Road to Garrison

Valley Rail Trail

A brief summary of the Future Downtown Cycling Network was provided as below:

1. Detailed design work is complete for the Corbould Route, Mary Route and Princess Avenue Route.
2. Preliminary design is complete for the Williams Route and a portion of the Princess Avenue Route.
3. Valley Rail Trail – Spruce Drive to Evans Road
4. Knight Road – Valley Rail Trail Crossing and railway upgrades
5. Williams Street Bridge
6. Vedder Trail Bridge

General Discussion

A member reiterated the necessity for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) on the east side of Watson Road and Tyson Road. Further discussion ensued with respect to protected bike lanes along Tyson Road and along Keith Wilson Road as part of the upcoming road widening project.

Discussion ensued regarding railway crossings; staff provided a brief update with respect to locations of railway crossing upgrades including a signal replacement to the Vedder Road railway crossing scheduled for night work in May.

6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

7. OTHER

8. INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE

9. NEXT MEETING

Co-Chair Shields polled the committee with respect to whether the earlier start time of 3:00 pm is suitable for everyone; the earlier start time was agreed upon for the next scheduled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Co-Chair

