

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, October 24, 2005 at 7:21 pm
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Councillor Susan Mason, Chair
Mayor Allison Habkirk
Councillors: Graham, Haddon, King, Korol and Thompson
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning and Building Services
Nirmal Bhattacharya, Municipal Engineer

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

1290.05 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMPSON
NO SECONDER
*That the Agenda for the Public Works, Transportation & Economic Development
Committee Meeting held on October 24, 2005 be approved as circulated.*
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. BC Transit Re: Rapid Transit Network Development Plan for the Victoria Region

- a) Email correspondence from Mike Davis, Manager of Planning & Scheduling at BC Transit, dated June 23, 2005, which was previously received for information by Council at the July 4th, 2005 Special (Open) Council Meeting.

Mr. Mike Davis, Manager of Planning & Scheduling – BC Transit, gave an information presentation on BC Transit's Rapid Transit Network Development Plan for the Victoria Region, during which time the following points were noted:

- A proposed regional transit network is based on the direction provided in the Regional Growth Strategy and Travel Choices transportation strategy;
- BC Transit has been focusing on developing express bus and rapid bus service on the Saanich Peninsula transit corridor which is intended to significantly increase ridership and attract passengers from automobiles to transit use;
- BC Transit has been working on the development of recommendations to increase the speed of transit travel to facilitate a higher quality, more attractive rapid transit service;
- Several goals and objectives has been identified to guide the planning, implementation and operation of express transit services, such as:
 - a) increase transit ridership and transit mode share;
 - b) enhance the public perception of transit;
 - c) improve the efficiency of the transit system;
 - d) support municipal and regional land use plans;
- the implementation of express bus service, which is similar to local bus service, provides travel times which are significantly faster as express bus services stop only at transit exchanges and major transfer locations, and may only be operating during peak periods;
- the development of rapid bus service is a form of rapid transit and incorporates frequent and rapid service, limited stops, and enhanced vehicles and stations;;
- the main route for express bus and rapid bus services for the Saanich Peninsula corridor is Highway 17 and a portion of East Saanich Road, with proposed rapid bus stations and express bus stops at the Sidney Exchange, McTavish Exchange, Central Saanich Exchange, and other interchanges to be determined in future.

A brief question and answer session took place.

Mr. Peter Parsons, representing the Victoria Airport Authority, advised of his concern with the absence of direct service from downtown Victoria to the Victoria International Airport, and questioned BC Transit's intention to promote ridership if it cannot provide the service to the public.

Dr. Alastair Bryson, 1239 Mt. Newton Cross Road, questioned what percentage of BC Transit's operating costs are covered by transit fares, and was advised by Mr. Davis that approximately 40% of annual operating costs are covered by transit fare revenues.

Mr. Wayne Watkins, 7055 Wallace Drive, asked if a Park & Ride facility was planned for this particular area of the Saanich Peninsula, and whether the general public was involved in the development of this transit initiative.

Ms. Sue Stroud, #105 – 7088 Wallace Drive, advised that she is very concerned with the possibility that many of the current inconveniences with the local bus service are not being addressed (i.e. riders with strollers cannot be adequately accommodated on community buses, lack of bicycle racks, irregular weekend service).

Mr. Davis answered several questions from members of the Committee and was thanked for his informational presentation.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Public Works, Transportation & Economic Development Committee Meeting held on October 24, 2005 adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Recorded By: Trish Flanders
Municipal Clerk