



TRANSIT STOP AMENITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF NANAIMO UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receive the Transit Stop Amenities within the City of Nanaimo Update for information.

BACKGROUND

Transit service for the City of Nanaimo (City) is provided through a partnership between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and BC Transit. With the exception of formal transit exchanges, the City is responsible for providing comfortable and inclusive bus stop amenities such as benches, shelters, and refuse/recycling receptacles. Historically, the City has primarily utilized the services of a third-party contractor to supply and maintain shelters and benches throughout their jurisdiction, in exchange for a portion of the funds that are generated from advertisements which are posted on the transit stop amenities.

As the current third-party transit stop amenity contract has recently expired, at the City Council meeting held on January 24, 2022, Council directed City staff to prepare a report with costing for a bus shelter strategy, co-created by the City of Nanaimo and the RDN in accordance with sustainable procurement practices. Shortly after, the City engaged with a consultant (as well as the RDN and BC Transit) to undertake a review of the City's approach to providing transit stop amenities. The result was an Options Paper with four (4) options to move forward (Attachment 1).

The options identified within the paper range from status quo to a plan that could see the City acquire and control all transit stop assets. This spectrum of options has a variety of benefits, risks, and costs (all of which were considered when identifying a preferred option). Ultimately, City staff are recommending that their Council support Option 2, a Corridor-Based Hybrid Model. This option would see a third-party provide improved and refurbished transit stop amenities on core transit routes (as outlined in *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*¹ and the *RDN's Transit Redevelopment Strategy*²) and the City would own and maintain transit stop amenities along the neighbourhood transit routes. This approach provides a balance between increasing the level of service to meet the community's desires while minimizing capital and operating costs to the City and its partner agencies.

In order to ensure transit is an attractive transportation option, it is imperative that the amenities the City provides at transit stops are safe, comfortable, clean, and include the most desirable services such as weather protection, refuse or recycling receptacles, wayfinding, and bike storage where appropriate. RDN Transit is supportive of the

¹ <https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/city-plan-documents/city-plan---low-resolution-2022-jul-04.pdf>

² <https://www.bctransit.com/documents/1529721448916>

City's efforts to create and implement an improved bus shelter strategy and will continue to work with them throughout the process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no cost to the RDN to receive this report for information.

The City intends to purchase replacement shelters through the BC Transit Shelter Program³. BC Transit's shelters are cost shared with the RDN at 53.31% net to the RDN, additional grant funding streams will be explored at the time the City requests shelters. This cost savings is directly passed on to the City, excluding site preparation work that includes the shelter pad, electrical (if solar is not an option), slope stabilization if needed, etc.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

People and Partnerships - Improve the governance and awareness of RDN activities for citizens throughout the Region.

REVIEWED BY:

- M. Getchell, Manager, Transit Operations
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- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT:

1. Options Paper - June 2023

³ <https://www.bctransit.com/documents/1529710350967>