

BUS SHELTERS – TRANSIT MINOR BETTERMENT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board endorse a second application to the Transit Minor Betterment program to complete the transit amenity improvements at Magnolia Court Commercial Centre on Route 99.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2023 Transit Improvement Program (TIP), BC Transit identified the necessary service hours to implement an interregional connection between the Comox Valley Regional District's (CVRD) Route 10 Fanny Bay and the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Route 99 Deep Bay. Both the CVRD and RDN received expansion hours to implement the connection in September 2024, for which transit amenity improvements are identified for the Magnolia Court commercial centre in Bowser on the Route 99.

The Board endorsed the application to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) Transit Minor Betterments Program for this improvement at the June 10, 2024, Board meeting (Attachment 1):

"That the Board endorse an application to the Transit Minor Betterment program for transit amenity improvements at Magnolia Court commercial centre on Route 99."

This program provided up to \$100,000 in grant funding for transit amenities which would include a shelter with a bench, accessible concrete pad and solar lighting. The MoTT Transit Minor Betterments Program requires that all construction and invoices must be paid no later than March 31 of the fiscal year the grant is approved.

As part of the design and construction of the Magnolia Court commercial centre shelter, it was identified that the cost of the project would exceed the \$100,000 grant, and would not be able to be completed by March 31, 2025 due to material lead times. Upon consultation with MoTT staff, it was determined that the best recommended course of action would be to split the project into two phases. The first phase was that RDN staff resubmit the application to include the work that was expected to be finished by March 31, 2025. The second phase would include the work that could be completed by March 31, 2026.

Staff were able to complete the engineering design work and concrete pad construction for this project by March 31, 2025. Staff were unable to complete the shelter purchase and installation by this date, and plan to complete this in the second phase of the project. Staff is seeking the Board's support to complete the second phase application for the grant applications to the Transit Minor Betterment program continue with transit amenity improvements in Bowser.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the Transit Minor Betterments application is approved for the second phase of the Bowser transit amenities, up to \$100,000 will be funded by the grant. The cost estimate for the remaining improvement work at the Magnolia Court improvement is estimated to be under \$100,000.

Should the application for the Transit Minor Betterments grant funding not be approved for the second phase of the Bowser transit amenities, the improvement will not go forward unless the Board resolves to fund this work through transit reserves and operating budget for up to \$100,000.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Managing Impacts of Climate Change - Shift to more environmentally sustainable modes of transportation to help achieve provincial objectives and regional targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Managing Impacts of Climate Change - Advance priority actions that are identified within RDN Board-approved plans and initiatives.

Planning and Managing for Growth - Understand and develop an inter-connected framework of strategies and plans to manage growth to support complete communities, including planning, transportation, infrastructure, and fiscal sustainability.

REVIEWED BY:

- D. Marshall, Senior Manager, Transportation Services
- J. Lumb, Manager, Accounting Services
- T. Moore, Chief Financial Officer
- C. Crabtree, General Manager, Corporate and Transportation Services
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT:

1. Transit Amenity Improvements For The Comox Valley Interregional Connection Report