

CHAIR & MEMBERS
NANAIMO TRANSIT SELECT COMMITTEE
November 29, 2018.

SUBJECT: PLANNING UPDATE

PURPOSE

This update on transit planning activities in the Regional District of Nanaimo is provided to the Transit Select Committee (“TSC”) for **INFORMATION**.

SERVICE PLANNING SUMMARY

Winter 2019 Service

Upon direction from the Regional District of Nanaimo Board, Route 40 improvements are being developed for implementation in January 2019 in order to improve frequency and reduce crowding.

Key changes include:

- Additional peak morning and afternoon trips
- Additional Sunday trips

PLANNING INITIATIVES

Work undertaken or proposed since the last Transit Select Committee meeting includes:

- **South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan** - The plan will identify transit service priorities in order to simplify routes and improve travel times for customers. BC Transit and RDN staff reviewed the input collected from Phase 1 of public engagement. Based on the feedback from Phase 1, staff are pursuing phase II of public engagement to receive feedback on potential route changes. Public engagement will be held from November 26 – December 4 and the final Plan will be completed in Winter 2019.
- **Nanaimo Transit Service Improvements Priorities** - BC Transit and the Regional District of Nanaimo have developed a living document that prioritizes transit improvements based on the strategic direction of the Transit Future Plan, land use and demographic changes, and public input. It provides a list of initiatives to guide decision making for future service expansions. *See Appendix A.*
- **North Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan** - BC Transit and RDN staff will commence the North Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan to improve service for customers in Fall 2019. The plan will identify transit service priorities in order to simplify routes and improve travel times for customers.
- **Right Sizing Strategy** - As part of the Local Area Transit Plan process, BC Transit and RDN staff will undertake a study to analyze bus-stop level activity data to ensure that customer ridership is matched with vehicle size.

INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

- **Woodgrove/Country Club/Downtown Transit Exchanges** – The RDN and BC Transit contracted Watt Consulting LTD to evaluate transit exchange options, produce concept

developments and Class D cost estimates to submit to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. A business case will be developed and public and stakeholder engagement will be facilitated as required.

Related Local Initiatives

The Regional District of Nanaimo participated in a number of local initiatives on behalf of the Transit Select Committee over the last few months, including the following:

Santa Bus
Nanaimo Christmas Parade
Seniors Connect – Seniors Ride the Bus Training

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Transit Select Committee receive this report for **INFORMATION**.

Respectfully,

Kailey Laidlaw
Transit Planner
BC Transit

Erica Beauchamp
Superintendent Transit Planning & Scheduling
Transportation & Emergency Services
Regional District of Nanaimo

Appendix A

Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Service Expansion Priorities

This working list of priorities is developed in alignment with the goals and vision of the Transit Future Plan (2014). It provides a service description and an associated high level hour estimate and vehicle estimate. The scoring system below acts as an assessment tool for ranking priorities to help guide decision making. The highest score indicates the highest priority. The metrics were applied to the service improvement in order to identify priorities.

Scoring Matrix

Metric	Weight
Population and Employment Access ¹	15%
Route Productivity ²	15%
Route Directness and Legibility ³	15%
On-Time Performance ⁴	50%
Coverage to Unserved Areas ⁵	5%

Service Type	Service Improvement	Additional Buses	Additional Hour Estimates	Scoring /50
Frequent Transit Network	Route 40: Route modification to provide more residents with access to frequent transit.	2 (heavy-duty)	5000	45
Local Transit Network	Routes 5,6, and 7: Simplify routes	2 (heavy-duty)	4500	35
	Route 30: Simplify route	2 (heavy-duty)	3500	35
	Route 20 Realignment: Connects Woodgrove, Linley Valley/Rutherford, and Country Club Centre.	3 (heavy-duty)	6500	30
	Route 1: Realignment: Connects Country Club, Prideaux Exchange, and Vancouver Island University.	4 (heavy-duty)	10000	30
	Parksville and Qualicum: General service increases	2 (light-duty)	3000	25
	Cassidy Paratransit Service	2 (light-duty)	2500	10
	Service to Area F	2 (light duty)	3000	10
	Addition of service to weekends to establish 60/40 split Saturday/Sunday service, in comparison to Weekday	4 (heavy-duty)	10000	
	Service to Duke Point	2 (heavy-duty)	5000	
Regional Connection	Service to Ladysmith: peak hour weekday service that connects the downtown core, VIU, airport, and Ladysmith	2 (heavy-duty)	2500	10
HandyDART	Increased service based on Transit Future Plan	1 (light-duty)	2000	-

¹ Population and employment density within a 400m walk distance

² Rides per revenue hour

³ Direct and consistent to improve travel times

⁴ The degree to which the bus meets scheduled times

⁵ Coverage to areas currently not serviced by transit