

TO: Transit Select Committee**MEETING:** May 23, 2019**FROM:** Darren Marshall
Manger Transit Operations**FILE:** 8500 03 ATHS**SUBJECT:** Additional Transit Holiday Service

RECOMMENDATION

That New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day be included in the Transit Holiday Schedule at a Sunday level service effective in the 2020 transit expansion plan and that the budget be increased by \$42,021.

SUMMARY

Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Transit Service has enough annual transit hours in the current 2018/2019 Annual Operating Agreement to provide transit service for 362 days a year. The service is currently not provided on New Year's Day, Good Friday, and Christmas Day.

Providing transit service 365 days a year would allow commuters and residents to travel in our region and could be implemented on January 1, 2020. This change would assist with local businesses, as well as customers who rely on transit.

The cost of this change to the Regional District of Nanaimo will be \$42,021 a year commencing 2020.

BACKGROUND

The RDN Transit Service is currently operating on all statutory holidays except for three days: New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day. On most statutory holidays¹ the RDN Transit Service operates at a Sunday level of service, which equates to 170 hours per Sunday level of service. Implementing three additional statutory days would require an additional 510 annual hours of service and could be implemented with an annual expansion in January 1, 2020 at a net cost share to the RDN of \$42,021.

Improved statutory holiday service is a service improvement frequently requested by customers. With most retail establishments open on Sundays and statutory holidays, both shoppers and retail employees would benefit from this type of service expansion. As an example, limited Boxing Day service was first introduced in 2005, in partnership with the four major malls, and was offered again in 2006. As a result of the overall success and positive feedback received by the public and employees in the retail industry, the RDN Transit now offers service on Boxing Day annually.

¹ Other Sunday level service on statutory holidays provided annually: Family Day, Victoria Day, Canada Day, B.C. Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day and Remembrance Day.

The Province has approved the RDN for a 5900 hour annual expansion for January 2020. With the approval of the additional three statutory holidays for a total of 510 hours, a 2020 detailed expansion plan for the remaining 5,390 service hours will be presented to the July Transit Select Committee for consideration. With the allocation of 510 hours to statutory holidays this will reduce the approved hours for the January 2020 service expansion.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day be included in the Transit Holiday Schedule at a Sunday level service effective in the 2020 transit expansion plan and that the budget be increased by \$42,021.
2. That alternative direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

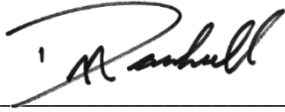
The RDN Transit System funds 53.31% of the costs and retains any additional fare revenues generated by new or increased ridership due to the expansion, which would help offset these costs. The RDN's net cost share will be \$42,021 annually to provide the 510 hours of statutory holidays, as the employees will be compensated at double time for work performed on all statutory holidays.

Statutory Holiday Service Increase Options:

	Current Operating Hours	Proposed Total Increased Annual Statutory Holiday Operating Hours (Current Sunday Level of Service)	Total Labor & Equipment Cost (Gross before BC Transit Cost Sharing)	Total BC Transit Labor & Equipment Cost (46.69% BC Transit shared service model)	Total RDN Labor & Equipment Cost (53.31% BC Transit shared service model)
RDN service increase for three statutory holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day	0 hrs.	510 hrs.	\$90,000	\$47,979	\$42,021

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Service And Organizational Excellence - We Will Advocate For Transit Improvements
And Active Transportation



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May 7, 2019

Reviewed by:

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- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer