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**TO:** Transit Select Committee                                **MEETING:** July 11, 2019

**FROM:** Erica Beauchamp  
Superintendent, Transit Planning &  
Scheduling    **FILE:** 8500 01 SNP

**SUBJECT:** South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan Adoption

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan be adopted and that the improvement priorities identified therein, be added to the RDN Transit Service Priorities List for future expansion consideration.

**SUMMARY**

The South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan (SNLATP) is a review of the transit routes and service within the Southern areas of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). The final report identifies a number of transit service and infrastructure improvement priorities, some to be implemented with the next transit expansion in January 2020, and others to be added to the RDN Transit Service Priorities List. The transit service improvements outlined within the SNLATP were developed in collaboration with BC Transit, and are informed by stakeholders and public engagement feedback. Based upon transit design principles, the transit improvement priorities identified within the report will be added to the RDN Transit Service Priorities List, to act as a guide to inform the decision-making of future transit expansions.

**BACKGROUND**

Development of the South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan began in fall 2017 with reviews of the Transit Future Plan, transit priorities and their alignment with Official Community Plans, Transportation Master Plan, as well as neighbourhood plans. Following this, a detailed review and analysis of existing transit services including route structures, ridership statistics and demographics was conducted. In spring 2018, a collaborative RDN & BC Transit public engagement process began, including engagement sessions, a survey and a stakeholder workshop. Information gathered from this first round of engagement helped develop service and route options for the areas of South Nanaimo and South RDN.

In November and December of 2018, a second public engagement process, including seven open houses and an online survey, was undertaken to gather feedback regarding proposed route re-alignments and service frequencies. Approximately 550 people participated (exceeding our sample size of 383) in the engagement process, with feedback serving to inform further stages of the process. As well, an extensive media campaign was conducted including website customer alerts, Facebook, Twitter, Rack Cards, Interior Bus Cards, and radio announcements in order to inform the public of both the open houses as well as the survey.

Feedback gathered from the second public engagement sessions assisted to finalize the proposed transit service improvements and to develop implementation priorities. With a goal of working towards increased ridership and providing enhanced transit service to rural and urban areas, the SNLATP lists improvement recommendations such as simplifying or separating routes, reducing service duplication and increasing frequencies. Improvement priorities recommended in the SNLATP (Table 1) will be added to the RDN Transit Service Priorities List for consideration as expansion resources become available.

Implementation Priorities		Service Hours Required	Buses Required
1	Restructure routes 7 Cinnabar and 30 NRGH. Introduce routes 8 Cedar and 78 Cassidy.	5,200	4
2	Restructure routes 5 Fairview, 6 Harewood, and 40 VIU Express.	5,000	4
3	Introduce route 70 Duke Point	5,000	2
4	Increase service on South Nanaimo routes.	TBD	TBD
5	Establish interregional service with the Cowichan Valley Regional District	TBD	TBD

Table 1: Detailed summary of all proposed service improvements from the SNLATP (BC Transit, 2019)

## ALTERNATIVES

1. That the South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan be adopted and that the improvement priorities identified therein, be added to the RDN Transit Service Priorities List for future expansion consideration.
2. That alternate direction be provided.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Transit expansions are reviewed annually and will be implemented based on priority and required hours. Each implementation priority equates to variable associated expansion costs according to the number of required hours. Detailed financial implications will be analyzed and brought forward for each future expansion.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Transportation and Transit - Provide opportunities for residents to move effectively through and around the Region.



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June 19, 2019

Reviewed by:

- D. Marshall, Manager, Transit Operations
- D. Pearce, Director, Transportation and Emergency Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. South Nanaimo Local Area Transit Plan June 2019