

STAFF REPORT

TO:	Transit Select Committee				MEETING:	September 19, 2019
FROM:	Brandon Miller Superintendent, Service Delivery	Fleet	&	Transit	FILE:	8770 01 TPFU

SUBJECT: Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Performance and Fleet Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Performance and Fleet Update report be received for information.

SUMMARY

BC Transit conducts an Annual Performance Summary (APS) (Attachment 1) for the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Transit system each year. The APS is a snapshot of the RDN transit system that compares investment and performance to previous years, current budget and other peer communities. Service priorities and capital investment decisions are supported through the APS.

The RDN Transit fleet continues to increase each year as service expands. The RDN Transit fleet consists of 73 buses, which includes 54 (40') compressed natural gas (CNG) buses and 19 (26') diesel buses. Fixed-route (conventional) transit utilizes58 heavy duty buses; whereas handyDART (custom) transit utilizes 15 light duty buses.

BACKGROUND

BC Transit divides regional transit systems into four categories based on the size of the communities served and the type of system:

- Tier 1 systems serve large communities with annual transit service hours of 60,000 or more.
- Tier 2 systems serve medium and large communities with annual transit service hours of 20,000 to 60,000.
- Tier 3 systems serve smaller communities with annual transit service hours of 20,000 or less.
- Tier 4 systems are unique stand-alone services.

BC Transit classifies RDN Transit as a Tier 1 system. However, because of the vast distance and rural areas that RDN Transit services, it has characteristics of a Tier 2 and Tier 3 system. The following performance summaries compare RDN Transit to a Tier 1 system.

Conventional Transit Performance Summary

Measures	2018 / 2019 Actual	2017 / 2018 Actual	YoY Variable	2018 / 2019 AOA Budget
Revenue Service Hours	125,000	122,000	2.94%	126,000
Passenger Trips	3,387,000	3,078,000	10.05%	2,917,000
Total Revenue	4,810,000	4,458,000	7.88%	4,402,000
Operating Cost per Passenger Trip	\$3.31	\$3.55	-6.57%	\$4.02

Custom Transit Performance Summary

Measures	2018 / 2019 Actual	2017 / 2018 Actual	YoY Variable	2018 / 2019 AOA Budget
Revenue Service Hours	25,000	25,000	-2.37%	26,000
Passenger Trips	68,084	67,907	0.26%	67,000
Total Revenue	145,000	166,000	-12.32%	185,000
Operating Cost per Passenger Trip	\$24.92	\$26.00	-4.16%	\$28.46

Fleet Update

The RDN transit fleet consists of 73 buses which include two different types; heavy duty and light duty.

Bus Type	Number of Buses	% of Fleet	Passenger Capacity	Comments
Heavy Duty	54	74%	81	Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus used on fixed route (conventional) transit.
Light Duty	19	26%	20	Smaller diesel bus used for handyDART (custom) transit and Community bus for fixed routes (conventional) that have fewer passengers.

RDN transit System is required to perform preventative maintenance on the bus fleet at certain intervals. To ensure service demands are met, there is an allocation of spare buses that are used when needed. The spare ratio calculation is the percentage of buses above the amount of buses that are required during peak service times. BC Transit has a spare ratio target of 20% for fleets greater than 50 buses. The RDN's current transit spare ratio is 19%.

On July 18, 2019 the Government of Canada, Province of BC, and BC Transit announced the purchase of 10 battery heavy duty electric buses for deployment in 2021. BC Transit is planning to create a fully electric fleet in all bus system types by 2040, which would include the RDN transit fleet. As BC Transit releases more information on electric buses, the Board will be updated.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. That the RDN Transit Performance and Fleet Update report be received for information.
- 2. That alternative direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

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

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Brandon Miller bmiller@rdn.bc.ca August 22, 2019

Reviewed by:

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

Attachment

1. 2018 2019 Annual Performance Summary