



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

MINUTES of a **REGULAR** meeting of the **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** of the **REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN** held in the Board Room at the Regional District Office on Wednesday, January 4, 2012

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<b>Members:</b>	Director P. Nicol	City of Vernon	Chair
	Director R. Fairbairn	Electoral Area "D"	Vice-Chair
	Director S. Fowler	City of Armstrong	
	Director D. Dirk	District of Coldstream	
	Director H. Cyr	City of Enderby	
	Director K. Acton	Village of Lumby	
	Director R. Sawatzky	City of Vernon	
	Director J. Cunningham	City of Vernon	
	Director J. Brown	Township of Spallumcheen	
	Director B. Fleming	Electoral Area "B"	
	Director M. Macnabb	Electoral Area "C"	
	Director E. Foisy	Electoral Area "E"	
	Director J. Pearase	Electoral Area "F"	

<b>Staff:</b>	T. Hall	Administrator
	D. Sewell	General Manager, Finance
	L. Mellott	General Manager, Electoral Area Administration
	N. Kohnert	Regional Engineering Services Manager
	K. Kirkland	Senior Clerk (taking minutes)

<b>Also Present:</b>	Alt. Director H. Halvorson	Electoral Area "F"
	Alt. Director J. Garlick	District of Coldstream
	M. Besso	Councillor, District of Coldstream
	R. Enns	Councillor, District of Coldstream
	M. Stamhuis	Administrator, District of Coldstream
	T. Seibel	Chief Financial Officer, District of Coldstream
	M. Bailey	Acting Administrator, City of Vernon
	K. Bertles	Chief Financial Officer, City of Vernon
	Media and Public	

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## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Chair Nicol noted that a minute of silence will be observed on behalf of Enderby Firefighter, Dan Botkin prior to the Board of Directors meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

### BC Transit Strategic Review (the Review)

The General Manager, Finance provided a PowerPoint presentation as an introduction to the BC Transit Strategic Review report being presented by BC Transit. He outlined the objectives of the Review and the status of the current regional transit system with a focus on service levels, efficiencies and challenges.

The following topics were discussed:

- transit service coordination
- Ridership and service profile
- Service level efficiencies
- Expansion opportunities
- Service Establishment Bylaws
- Rider demand
- Competing interests
- Contractual agreements
- Costs and apportionment
- Strategic Direction
- Health Connections Service – static Interior Health funding
- Balancing costs, service, the economy and demand

The General Manager, Finance provided an overview of coverage of all of the regional and sub-regional services and challenges including the HandyDart function.

John Hicks, Senior Transit Planner presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2011 Vernon Regional Transit Service Review. The key points included:

- Description of the Working Group that carried out the Review
- Proposed service changes for Route 60 (Enderby – Armstrong – Vernon), Route 61 (Lumby – Vernon) and North Okanagan Connector 90 (UBCO)
- Feedback from public and stakeholder consultation included strong support for transit services, expansion of some routes, need for a shopper style service, and filling in the schedule gaps for UBCO
- BC Transit is currently undertaking a province wide review of the HandyDart and Taxi Saver programs to determine need for policy and process changes
- There is significant demand for an additional route servicing Silver Star Foothills
- Implementation of an Ambassador program (rider education and training) to try to alleviate pressures on the HandyDart service (shift riders to the conventional service if they are physically and mentally capable)
- No changes to the fleet size planned at this time

**Discussion:**

- The proposed realignment of services including (Health Connections Program and Interior Health facilities) as well as the heavily used HandyDart Program.
- BC Transit is meeting with Interior Health next week to address provincial funding issues. Steve Harvard, Senior Transit Planner, BC Transit will provide follow up from this meeting to the Board of Directors at a future meeting.
- The agreement between the City of Vernon and BC Transit for the second UBCO bus ends in August, 2012. Any adjustments to the service would need to be in place prior to this deadline or the agreement would have to be amended.

**Key priorities:**

- Amending service establishment bylaws to put the UBCO buses into a separate bylaw
- Formalize contractual obligations for HandyDart and funding with Lake Country, Salmon Arm and for U-Passes
- Significant cost escalation since 2006 (growth between 25% – 26% to 2011)

- Service levels to meet increased demand
- Availability of service whether there is ridership or not
- True cost of service
- Follow the working group recommendations
- Willingness to finalize agreements
- Possible access to grants

With respect to changing the UBCO service levels and format for September 2012, the additional costs would have to be approved before March 2012 to meet the RDNO and BC Transit budget approval timeframe. To meet City of Vernon's August 2012 deadline to turn the second UBCO bus over to the Regional Transit System, agreements on service expansion and cost apportionment would have to be developed with all stakeholders. It will take some time to develop a new service for the UBCO #90 and to amend the existing service establishment bylaw to exclude the UBCO #90. It may be early 2013 before these processes are completed.

Moved and seconded by Directors Dirk and Acton

That the Board authorize staff to initiate the creation of a new UBCO North Okanagan Connector Service Establishment Bylaw.

**CARRIED**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

**Certified Correct:**



Chair

**PATRICK NICOL**  
**CHAIR**



Corporate Officer