



**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013**

SUBJECT **TRANSIT SERVICE FOR SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS**

PURPOSE

To pursue a pre-feasibility study for transit service for the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI).

BACKGROUND

At the Electoral Area Services Committee meeting of April 17, 2013, Committee passed the following resolution:

“That staff be directed to prepare terms of reference for a study to investigate establishing a transit service on the Southern Gulf Islands and report back to the Committee.”

Subsequent to this, staff met with representatives of BC Transit, the Electoral Area (EA) Director and representatives of the SGI with an interest in investigating transit service. During this meeting, SGI representatives described the existing situation on the islands with respect to transportation and the need to consider solutions such as a local transit service. BC Transit representatives explained the pre-feasibility study option that can inform a decision to pursue a formal feasibility study by providing enough information for community members to understand what a local transit service may involve. The EA Director and SGI representatives indicated their interest in proceeding with the pre-feasibility study option.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Staff be directed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BC Transit to conduct a pre-feasibility study for local transit options on the Southern Gulf Islands.
2. Staff be directed to discontinue investigations into the feasibility of transit options for the Southern Gulf Islands.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The pre-feasibility study is a high level overview of transit options that considers community needs, available community transportation services and assets and resources to arrive at a suite of options that could be considered in more detail through a feasibility study, should the community decide to pursue transit service. The pre-feasibility study would be done at no cost to the CRD and can be initiated in the fall of 2013.

Should the community express interest in undertaking a feasibility study of the one or more options presented in the pre-feasibility, this larger, more in-depth study could be initiated in 2014 and the CRD's share of the study is estimated to be \$10,000. The CRD share could be funded from the CRD Feasibility Fund; should the service be established, it would be required to reimburse the feasibility fund.

OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

To operationalize the pre-feasibility study, BC Transit would set out the terms of reference in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be co-signed by BC Transit and the CRD. CRD Regional Planning would support the pre-feasibility study by providing available background data and mapping as well as coordinating community consultation efforts.

SUMMARY

In response to Committee's earlier resolution to investigate the feasibility of transit service for the SGI, preliminary discussions were held with BC Transit and representatives of the SGI, including the EA Director. Interest was expressed in pursuing a pre-feasibility study this coming fall, in order to outline alternative transit options and better inform a decision to move forward with establishing the feasibility of a local transit service. There is no cost to the CRD to undertake the pre-feasibility study.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommends to the Board:

That staff be directed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with BC Transit to conduct a pre-feasibility study for local transit options on the Southern Gulf Islands.

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Concurrence