



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Transportation Select Committee
Held May 23, 2012 in the Board Room, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

Present: Directors: F. Leonard (Chair), D. Fortin (V. Chair), J. Brownoff, L. Cross, B. Desjardins, C. Hamilton, G. Hill, W. McIntyre, J. Mendum, W. Milne, G. Young (ex officio)

Staff: K. Daniels, Chief Administrative Officer, R. Lapham, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services; M. Misk-Evans, Senior Manager Regional Planning, A. Orr, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications; S. Santarossa, Corporate Officer (recorder);

Absent: M. Alto

Also Present: D. Blackwell, A. Bryson, V. Derman, J. Ranns

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Blackwell, **SECONDED** by Director Desjardins,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Chair's Remarks – There were no remarks from the Chair.

3. Presentations/Delegations – There were no presentations or delegations.

4. Introduction of BC Transit Independent Review Panel

The Committee, invited Board members and members of the BC Transit Independent Review Panel introduced themselves. Members of the Panel present were Chris Trumpy, Chair, Catherine Holt and John King.

The Chair stated that the Committee was established at the request of the province and that the Panel members were present to hear how transit could be changed for the better.

5. CRD Submission to BC Transit Independent Review Panel

R. Lapham provided an overview of the CRD submission to the BC Transit Independent Review Panel and highlighted the following:

- Regional transportation and planning a CRD identified strategic priority
- Improved confidence in regional governance
- Integration of regional transportation and land use system
- Advance defined regional transportation goals
- Direct negotiation with the province and BC Transit
- Directly pursue alternative local funding options and partnership funding agreements

- Ensure decisions and/or investments do not compromise the regional network

In response to a question from the Chair of the Panel, R. Lapham stated the intended role of BC Transit is that of an operator accountable to the CRD.

6. Individual Submissions to the Panel by CRD Board Members

Committee and invited Board members had an opportunity to provide their individual submissions to the Panel. The input is summarized as follows:

- Transportation needs for seniors and an aging demographic
- Lack of control of final decisions of Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC)
- Need for full representation on commission so that needs of all member municipalities can be addressed
- Lack of responsiveness from BCTC and relationship with communities
- Lack of continuity of representation on VRTC
- Role of BCT should be that of service provider with a better link to the needs of local government and accountable to the CRD
- Better integration with Regional Growth Strategy
- Lack of BCT engagement and accountability at the local level
- Greater input from citizens required
- New commission will not resolve all of the issues
- CRD has taxation powers and should have the ability to decide how funds are spent
- CRD is able to make decisions that represent compromises
- Better integration of all modes of transportation i.e. bus, rail and roads
- CRD represents the vision of where the region wants to go so should be an equal partner
- Should not duplicate services
- CRD has the ability to work collaboratively under separate authorities, eg. Hospital District
- Decision making would be by the CRD Board with an advisory committee making recommendations to the full Board
- All communities with differing needs would have a voice at the CRD Board

Director Mendum departed the meeting at 12:52 pm.

Further input was provided as follows:

- Need for accountability - CRD currently takes no ownership or responsibility of BC Transit
- Mechanism required where BC Transit is more accountable and responsive to local government
- If CRD becomes the transit commission, will still require representation on the provincial board

In response to C. Trumpy's question regarding the potential disadvantages of the CRD assuming the role of the transit commission, the following comments were provided:

- Increased membership could impact the efficiency of the commission
- The need to compromise vs. making the best decision
- Potential risk of focusing on local projects vs. larger regional projects
- Perception of a less streamlined decision-making process
- CRD would be required to be accountable

C. Trumpy provided an update on where the Panel is in the process:

- Have met with a number of different communities
- Initial round of consultation has been completed
- A report is due to the Minister of Transportation by the end of August. The Panel anticipates having the report to the Minister in advance of the deadline
- A survey will be available by mid-June to ensure everyone's concerns have been heard
- All submissions received to date will be posted by the end of the month
- A summary of input received will be circulated for comment by mid-June.

7. Correspondence: Susan Brice, Chair, Victoria Regional Transit Commission

This item was deferred to the next meeting scheduled for June 27, 2012.

8. New Business - There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Hill, **SECONDED** by Director Cross,
That the meeting be adjourned at 1:25 pm.

CARRIED

Chair