



TRANSLINK BOARD-IN-BRIEF
March 23, 2004

Here are the highlights of the March 23 meeting of the TransLink Board of Directors, including specific actions taken on agenda items.

The complete agenda and supporting reports for every Board meeting are posted on TransLink's Web site (www.translink.bc.ca). The Board-in-Brief is also available on the Web site.

Please note: Board-in-Brief is not the official minutes of the TransLink Board meeting and should not be interpreted as such. The minutes for this meeting will be adopted at the next TransLink Board meeting.

DELEGATIONS

- Chief Peter James of the Katzie First Nation re. the Fraser River Crossing
- Two delegations re. the transit depot planned for the Eburne lands
- One delegation re. property tax revenue
- Two delegations re. RAV P3 project
- 12 delegations re. the Owl late-night bus service

REPORTS

4.1 NightBus Service Evaluation and Policy Development

Prior to October 2001, TransLink operated 16 late night Owl bus routes seven days a week. As part of TransLink's efforts to reduce costs in 2001 due to the failure of a proposed vehicle levy, this service was eliminated. On July 5, 2003, the Board approved a new NightBus service for a one-year trial period. Four NightBus routes that radiate from downtown Vancouver early on Saturday and Sunday mornings were introduced. This report concluded that the NightBus routes are a success.

The Board took the following action:

- a) Voted in favour of restoring the previous 16 Owl service routes that operated seven days a week to 3:10 a.m. in Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster and 2:10 a.m. to Richmond and North Vancouver; and

- b) Voted to extend the late-night bus service from downtown Vancouver until 4:10 a.m. on Friday and Saturday to accommodate late bar closings.
- c) The Board asked staff to consider reducing late-night bus service on Sunday and Monday when ridership is low to mitigate the financial impact of extending the late-night service on Friday and Saturday. The staff is to report back to the Board.

4.2 Revised 2004 Property Tax By-Law

This report examined the need for an amendment to the 2004 Property Tax By-law to comply with the GVTA Act. The report also looked at the impact of higher than estimated property value assessments. Based on preliminary 2004 assessment information, property tax revenues would have been \$5.3 million greater than budgeted if tax rates were left unadjusted.

The Board took the following action:

- a) Adopted “Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority 2004 Property Tax Amendment By-Law Number 35-2004” to meet the technical requirements of the GVTA Act; and
- b) Voted in favour of adjusting the property tax rates so that the amount of revenue collected will equal the amount previously budgeted for 2004 with an additional \$1.4 million to cover the net cost of restoring the Owl bus service.

4.3 Naming the Fraser River Crossing

The report examined the process for naming the new crossing. The report looked at three options: letting the GVTA Board name the crossing; involving the community in the naming process; or marketing the naming rights to the private sector.

The Board took the following action:

Directed staff to take a community-based approach to naming the new crossing.

4.4 AirCare: Results and Observations in 2001 and 2002

The report looked at the performance of AirCare following the introduction of an enhanced emission inspection for 1992 and newer vehicles. It's expected that the TransLink and GVRD boards will provide direction on the future of the program later this year or early 2005.

The Board took the following action:

- a) Received the report for information.
- b) Directed staff to provide a copy of the report to the GVRD Board of Directors.

4.5 2004 Capital Program Projects – Specific Project Approval

The report provided background on six capital projects and programs, costing a total of 13.5 million dollars.

The Board provided Specific Project Approval for the following:

- Enterprise Data Warehouse: Budget: \$1,470,000
- Enterprise Application Integration: Budget: \$350,000
- Network Switches Replacement: Budget: \$740,000
- Dollarton Bridge Replacement: Budget: \$8,000,000
- 2004 Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost Sharing Program: Budget: \$2,500,000
- BTC Bus Wash Replacement: Budget: \$450,000

4.6 Major Road Network Bylaw Amendment

The Board took the following action:

Adopted “Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Major Road Network Amendment Bylaw Number 34-2004.” The amendment adds two newly constructed roads to the Major Road Network (MRN) along with two segments that connect these new roads to the network:

- Southridge Drive in Burnaby (plus the connecting Byrne Road)
- The realigned Dollarton Highway in the District of North Vancouver (plus a connecting extension of Riverside Drive)

The amendment removes from the MRN:

- The Old Dollarton Highway

The net change to the MRN will be the addition of 8.5 lane-km.

4.7 Contract Services for the Maintenance of a Portion of the MRN

The Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a maintenance agreement with the Ministry of Transportation for a portion of the Major Road Network (MRN).

INFORMATION REPORTS

4.8 Fraser River Crossing – Adoption of Technical Policies

In defining the requirements of the new Fraser River Crossing for the upcoming Request for Proposals, the project team is adopting policies relating to technical design, construction, maintenance and noise mitigation.

4.9 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Regional Advanced Traveller Information Systems (ATIS)

The ITS successfully concluded an agreement with a consultant team for the design of the regional ATIS. The primary objective of the ATIS is to collect, process and disseminate data and information on regional transportation to users and the public in real time. The design work is to be completed by June 2004 with the deployment to be tendered for completion in March 2005.

4.10 Fourth Quarter (Oct - Dec) - 2003 Capital Project Summary

The report provided summary information for TransLink capital projects and programs, including the authorized budget and estimated cost at completion.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Correspondence regarding requested changes to the Greater Vancouver Transit Conduct and Safety Regulations

The correspondence concerns a request made by the GVTA Board to the province to increase fines for transit-related offences and to re-direct the fine revenues back to the GVTA. The request was initially made in August of 2002 and there appears to have been no significant progress made in addressing the Board's concerns.

5.1.1 Board report dated July 4, 2002

5.1.2 Letter dated August 23, 2002 to Deputy Minister Dan Doyle from Pat Jacobsen, CEO

5.1.3 Letter dated January 27, 2004 to Deputy Minister Dan Doyle from Pat Jacobsen, CEO

5.1.4 Letter dated February 17, 2004 from Deputy Minister Dan Doyle.

The next GVTA Board meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 16, 2004 at Coquitlam Municipal Hall, 3000 Guildford Way.