

Board In Brief

Here are the highlights of the May 17th TransLink Board of Directors meeting. The complete agenda and supporting reports for every Board meeting are posted on TransLink's website. Click on "Board Meeting Agenda and Reports" and then on the meeting date.

Item 3.1-First Quarter (January - March) 2000 Capital Project Summary Report

The Board received a report providing summary information for TransLink capital projects during the first quarter of 2000.

Item 3.2-2000 Capital Projects - Specific Project Approval

Five capital projects were presented to the Board for approval:

1. Custom vehicle replacement-26 microbuses and 1 minibus to replace existing handyDART accessible transit vehicles that are 7-9 years of age and/or have accumulated over 200,000 kilometres. Total cost is \$2,429,800.
2. Custom vehicle expansion-6 microbuses and 1 minibus that are customized for person with disabilities, to meet the 3 percent annual growth in demand for handyDART accessible transit services. Total cost is \$662,200.
3. Bus fleet expansion-9 minibuses and 1 microbus for the implementation of Community Bus 2000 alternative community transit services in South Surrey/White Rock and in Burnaby Heights in late 2000. Total cost is \$1,245,560.
4. Minor capital account-an ongoing provision established to address asset rehabilitation work that cannot afford long lead times. Funding for 2000 to be \$3,600,000.

5. Minor capital account consulting and studies- to provide better project definition, planning, estimating, and evaluation of alternatives. Funding for 2000 to be \$1,000,000.

Projects 1, 2, 4 and 5 were passed as presented. The Board carried an amendment that the vehicle tender for Project 3 would not be awarded until a decision is made on the award of the operating contract for the South Surrey/White Rock Community Bus 2000 service.

Item 3.3-Tariff Revision

At its March 27th, 2000 meeting, the Board had approved the fare changes as described in the report "Proposed June 1, 2000 Transit Fare Change."

In order to put these changes into effect, the Board read and adopted the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority 2000 Tariff By-Law No. 12, 2000.

Item 3.4-AirCare II Certification of Repair Industry

A recommendation to the Board requested that the Province, through the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, establish technician and repair centre certification fees to recover costs for servicing of the repair industry, to coincide with the implementation of the AirCare II program.

The Board carried a motion to defer on this item, asking that it be presented in conjunction with another report regarding AirCare, probably at the July Board meeting.

Item 3.5-Burnaby Heights Community Shuttle - Service Design and Implementation Plan

The Board approved the Service Design and Implementation Plan for the Burnaby Heights Community Shuttle as described in a May 2, 2000 report. The Board also directed staff to proceed with implementation of this Plan in September 2000.

Community Shuttle is used as a generic description for services which can range from a shared-ride taxi through to vehicles as large as 30-foot long. There is great demand for these types of services, particularly in suburban areas where large 40-foot buses are expensive, ineffective, and intrusive upon local residential communities.

In Burnaby Heights, the vehicle will be an eight-passenger, two-wheelchair position van designed with a side-door wheelchair lift. It will operate on a two-way service route between Kootenay Loop and Hastings Street/Gilmore Avenue primarily via Boundary Road, Eton Street, Willingdon Avenue, Hastings Street to Gilmore Avenue. This routing has the support of the Burnaby Heights Merchants Association, Seton Villa Seniors Home residents and the community at large.

This service will replace the existing #139 bus route in September 2000.

Item 3.6-June 2000 Transit Service Changes

The Board received a report highlighting transit service changes being introduced in June as part of the 2000 Program Plan. These improvements include:

- * Increased frequency during midday of #240 North Vancouver buses across the Lions Gate Bridge
- * Increased frequency during early evenings on Highway 99 express buses (routes #351 and #601)

between Delta, White Rock, South Surrey and Vancouver

* Continuation of direct bus service between Richmond and the University of British Columbia through this summer, with significant expansion of this service in September.

* A joint project between West Coast Express and Coast Mountain Bus Company to provide guaranteed meets between the #149 Port Moody North/Port Moody Station and the #161 Mary Hill/Port Coquitlam station bus routes, and the West Coast Express train service.

Implementation of a minor revision of route #229 in North Vancouver (Lonsdale Quay / Westlynn) will be deferred, at the request of the District of North Vancouver Council, pending further public consultation.

Item 3.7-Status Report on Area Transit Plans

The Board received a report providing a brief update on the status of the three Area Transit Plans-Richmond, South of Fraser, and North Shore-- since the March 2000 meeting.

The Richmond Area Transit Plan is being developed in conjunction with the planning for the Richmond-Vancouver #98 B-Line, and the integration and improvement of local transit services with the B-Line.

The South of Fraser Area Plan (Surrey, Delta, White Rock, Langley City and Township) will review both local and regional transit services, including different types of transit service which may be more appropriate to the markets. Community Bus 2000 is a specific sub-task of the South of Fraser Area Plan. This project has focussed on working with the White Rock/South Surrey community to examine the local bus service, and to develop new service that will better serve the community and market.

The North Shore Area Plan will provide a transit plan for the next three years on the North Shore.

Item 3.8-Request for Exemption from the Power Levy

The Board approved an application by Mrs. V.G. Dorn of Surrey to be exempted from payment of the power levy on a second hydro account. Mrs. Dorn's request met the requirements of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Act for an exemption.

Of particular interest to TransLink will be a number of sessions which will explore the role of the federal government in addressing key issues such as urban congestion, promoting a sustainable transportation system, facilitating innovation in the transportation sector, and promotion of a safe transportation system.



Item 4.1-TransLink One Year Review

A memo from TransLink Chair George Puil was distributed to the Board. Chair Puil notes that TransLink staff is preparing a corporate plan, and proposes that the Board take an active role in this process. Specifically, three recommendations were approved by the Board:

1. That staff prepare a list of key issues that TransLink must address in the next five years for presentation to a Board workshop;
2. That the Board schedule a series of workshops to review these issues and provide direction to staff in the preparation of a corporate plan for TransLink;
3. That the Board direct staff to prepare terms of reference for consultant services to support the proposed Board-staff workshops, including preparation of appropriate background material and consultation with stakeholders.

Item 5.1-Authorization for the Chair of the Board to attend the Millenium Transportation Conference in Toronto -June 10-13, 2000.

The Board approved Chair Puil to attend the Millenium Transportation Conference. The theme of the Conference is "Meeting the Global Challenge," and will bring together key Canadian transportation decision-makers and a broad range of prominent public and private stakeholders. The Honourable David M. Collenette, federal Minister of Transport, will deliver the keynote speech.

The next TransLink Board meeting will be held:

Date: Wednesday June 21st
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: Greater Vancouver Regional District
2nd Floor Boardroom
4330 Kingsway in Burnaby.

Please note the cancellation of the June 7th Committee of the Whole meeting to accommodate Directors who will be attending FCM.