

# The Board in Brief...

---

Actions taken by  
the GVRD Board of  
Directors at its meeting on  
May 26, 2000

MATERIAL RELATING TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING  
ITEMS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Bill Morrell  
Communications and Education department  
451-6107

## Greater Vancouver Regional District

### Finance

- External Auditor's Management Letter

ON FIL

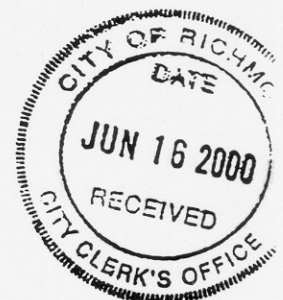
The external auditor – KPMG – has submitted its final Management Letter. The letter is on file at the Treasurer's office and is available for review by any member of the GVRD Board of Directors.

### Parks

- Pacific Spirit – Point Grey Cliffs

APPROVED

Approved by the board was a recommendation that approves-in-principle priority erosion control works to be undertaken by UBC on the Point Grey Cliffs in Pacific Spirit Regional Park. In addition, the board required that overall cliff erosion protection plans (excepting the priority work) be integrated with the UBC Comprehensive Community Plan.



- **Fraser River Islands Regional Park – Douglas Island Habitat Improvements**

APPROVED

Approval was granted to a proposal from Ducks Unlimited and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for environmental improvements on Douglas Island. Ducks Unlimited proposes a 30-year conservation agreement for existing wetland enhancement work on the island, while DFO will construct a 200 metre tidal slough on the island's south side.

### Planning and Environment

- **Agriculture Advisory Committee – 1999 achievements and objectives for 2000**

RECEIVED

This report provides information on the significant accomplishments of the GVRD's Agriculture Advisory Committee during 1999, and reviews issues to be discussed in 2000. Among the topics for 2000 is the issue of greenhouses, as well as development of an Economic Strategy for Agriculture in the Lower Mainland.

- **FCM/GVRD Proposal for a federal role in funding Sustainable Urban Transportation**

APPROVED

A report to the GVRD's Planning and Environment Committee provided background on the issue of transportation funding, and called on delegates from GVRD municipalities attending the FCM Convention to support a GVRD/FCM proposal calling for a federal role in urban transportation funding.

Arising from principles established in formation of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority, the proposal was endorsed by the FCM in December of 1998 and has since been embraced by many major urban centres throughout Canada.

- **TransLink Strategic Transportation Plan**

RATIFIED

TransLink's Strategic Transportation Plan for Greater Vancouver was ratified by the GVRD's Board of Directors. The plan, which under legislation governing TransLink must be approved by the GVRD, lays out actions that will be taken in the next three to five years to respond to transportation needs in the region and support the Livable Region Strategic Plan. The STP proposes significantly increased expenditures for selective development of roads, and transit.



- **Status of Work on Homelessness**

RECEIVED

This report updates the board on regional initiatives concerning homelessness, and highlights development of a regional plan to reduce shelterlessness and homelessness. The region's key role is to facilitate the intermunicipal, community, and intergovernmental process and to provide research support (upon receipt of research grants from HRDC).

- **Coordinated Planning for Howe Sound**

APPROVED

The board approved formation of a task group to represent the GVRD in development of a coordinated planning process for Howe Sound. The task group will work towards ensuring consistency between the growth strategies of the three regional districts involved, and will host an initial workshop that will focus on priority issues requiring coordinated efforts.

### Aboriginal Affairs and Electoral Area

- **Fraser Valley Regional Library District**

ADOPTED

An amendment to the Fraser Valley Regional District Participation Local Service Establishment Bylaw was adopted by the board. The amendment reflects changes to electoral areas as a result of the recent consolidation of Electoral Area C with Electoral Area A.

- **Liquid Waste Management Plan**

APPROVED

This report provides information on the application of the LWMP process to Electoral Area A, and specifically those portions outside the Vancouver Sewerage Area. The board agreed to adopt the LWMP Stage 2 Policies and Commitments as it applies to Electoral Area A, and to submit the Stage 2 plan to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks.

- **UBC Comprehensive Community Plan**

APPROVED

The board instructed staff to hold a public meeting, in conjunction with GVRD members of the GVRD/UBC Task Force, concerning the Comprehensive Community Plan. The meeting is subject to the GVRD receiving a draft Community plan which has been approved in principle by the UBC Board of Governors, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding endorsed by the GVRD-UBC Task Force. Staff are also instructed to report back on the results of the public meeting as well as on other relevant input.

### Information Reports

- **Information reports received**

RECEIVED

The board received a report on April Vacancies in the region's housing portfolio, information on Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Management, as well as Air 2000 Communications Activities or Clean Air Day.

### Other Business

- **Dissolution of Municipal Radio Function**

APPROVED

Transfer of the radio spectrum reserved for the municipal radio function to the E-Comm system has made the function redundant. A bylaw repealing the function, which required approval by two-thirds of participating municipalities, was read three times and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for final approval.

- **GVRD-GVTA Joint Committee**

APPROVED

Approval was granted to formation of a joint committee of GVRD and GVTA Board Directors. The committee will review issues of governance.

**Please Note: Due to the extended debate concerning ratification of the TransLink Strategic Transportation Plan, agenda items for the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, and the Greater Vancouver Water District were carried forward to the June 30 Board of Directors meeting.**



## TRANSLINK BOARD-IN-BRIEF – JUNE 21, 2000

*Here are the main points from the June 21<sup>st</sup> TransLink Board of Directors meeting. The complete agenda and supporting reports for every Board meeting are posted on TransLink's website ([www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca)). Click on "Board Meeting Agenda and Reports" and then on the meeting date. This document is also posted on TransLink's website—click on "Board-in-Brief" and then on the meeting date.*

*Note: Board-in-Brief is not the official minutes of the Board meeting, and should not be interpreted as such. The minutes of this meeting will be adopted by the TransLink Board at its next regular meeting.*

### **Item 3.1—First Quarter 2000 Expenditure and Revenue Forecast**

The Board received a report that provided projections of total expenditures, revenues and reserve balance for the 2000 fiscal year based on actual results to March 31.

It is anticipated that the 2000 annual deficit will be \$12.6 million-- \$17.7 million lower than the budgeted deficit. The reserve balance, originally projected to be \$29.2 million at year end, is now forecast to be \$47 million on December 31.

### **Item 3.2—Tender/Contract Award Information—April 1, 2000 to May 31, 2000**

The Board received a report providing information on the award of contracts valued at, or originally estimated at more than \$250,000.

The following contracts were awarded during the months of March, April and May 2000:

1. Orion Bus Industries of Mississauga, Ontario-- \$29,257,872 for the supply and delivery of 76 forty-foot high-floor clean diesel express buses.
2. Imperial Paving Limited-- \$6,398,814 for the No. 98 B-Line Richmond civil works.
3. West Coast Engineering Ltd.-- \$592,588 for supply and delivery of traffic signal poles and street light and banner poles for the Richmond No. 98 B-Line civil work. (TransLink will recover approximately 47 per cent of the costs from the City of Richmond.)
4. Keith Plumbing & Heating Co. Ltd.-- \$500,000 for the supply and installation of the works required to upgrade the wastewater treatment system at Burnaby Transit Centre.
5. Cochrane Engineering Ltd.-- \$330, 527 for the development of a bus operations and maintenance facilities plan.
6. Corporate Express-- \$330,000 for the supply of stationery items for TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company Ltd. for a two-year period.

### **Item 3.3—Treasury Policies**

The Board passed a motion to forward a report, titled Treasury Policies, to financial staff of the City of Vancouver for comment and input. The report recommends that the GVTA's policy for investments echoes that of the GVRD.

### **Item 3.4—Project 1875 – Electronic Farebox Request for Capital Budget Re-allocation**

The Board approved the re-allocation of \$1,110,000 in capital funding from the Capital Contingency Reserve to the Electronic Farebox Project to accommodate an additional 77 fareboxes required to meet the current conventional bus fleet projection in the Strategic Transportation Plan. Funds were originally budgeted for 1184 units; on review of bus fleet projections, it was determined that 1261 units were required.

These new electronic fareboxes will process and verify both cash and prepaid fares, and offer the following benefits:

- Reduced fare evasion;
- Reduced fare disputes between operators and customers;
- Increased revenue and ridership data by route;
- Increased revenue control; and
- The infrastructure to permit the introduction of new forms of prepaid fare media (e.g. multi-ride, stored-value and 'smart' cards.

### **Item 3.5—2000 Capital Projects – Specific Project Approval**

The Board gave specific project approval for the following 2000 capital projects:

- Bus fleet replacement – 50 forty-foot, low-floor, clean diesel buses. Budget: \$20,265,200.
- Bus fleet expansion—29 forty-foot, low-floor, clean diesel buses. Budget: \$12,287,600.
- Major Road Network rehabilitation. Budget: \$6,735,000.
- TransLink-Owned Bicycle Facility Program. Budget: \$698,000.
- Steveston Passenger Facilities and Relief Point. Budget: \$730,000.
- West Coast Express network controller unit / communication upgrade. Budget: \$418,300.
- Albion Ferry administration office expansion. Budget: \$231,400.
- SkyTrain Station platform-edge warning system. Budget: \$2,103,900.
- Coquitlam SkyTrain station extension consulting/contractor services. Budget: \$1,125,000.



### **Item 3.6—Trolley Bus Fleet Replacement**

The Board approved the following recommendations:

- A) Replacement of the present trolley bus fleet with a current service requirement of
  - 205 low-floor, standard (12-metre) electric trolley buses, plus an option of either 60 low-floor standard trolleys or 40 low-floor articulated (18-metre) electric trolley buses, at a cost of \$251 million - \$255 million as per Table 4 of the report.
- B) Inclusion of a fleet expansion option in the procurement to meet service requirements to 2006 for a further
  - 60 low-floor standard electric trolley buses, or
  - 40 low-floor articulated electric trolley buses.
- C) The concept of banking carbon dioxide emission credits incurred due to the avoidance of emissions from the purchase of trolley buses instead of diesel buses.

The existing trolley fleet is nearly 18 years old and nearing the end of its operational life. Upgrading the trolley fleet was also one of the major issues put forward by the public during TransLink's consultations on the Strategic Transportation Plan.

Trolleys provide quiet, environmentally-friendly transportation.

### **Item 3.7—Richmond Area Transit Plan Year 1: #98 B-Line and City Bus Integration**

The Board approved the Richmond Area Transit Plan Year 1 report and directed staff to proceed with implementation of the September, 2000 changes. The Board also referred the report to the City of Richmond for review and comment.

TransLink will implement a major restructuring of transit service in Richmond to reflect changes in travel patterns that have evolved over the past 20 years. Proposed transit service changes include:

- Improved service within Richmond including increased frequency on routes, extended hours of operation and more direct (cross-town) services linking residential areas with employment centres;
- Improved service within the City Centre including very frequent B-Line service as well as a new busway facility along No. 3 Road;
- Improved service to the Airport from Vancouver and Richmond including increased frequency, hours of operation and speed of travel;
- Improved service to UBC including introduction of a direct route between Richmond Centre and UBC;

- Improved service to Vancouver including a frequent B-Line route that reduces travel time from the City Centre as well as direct express routes for peak hour commuters from west and south Richmond bypassing the City Centre direct to Vancouver; and
- Improved service connecting major regional centres including a new Express Bus route between central Surrey, North Delta and Richmond.
- All buses will have bicycle racks for carrying two bicycles.

The above improvements are proposed for introduction in December 2000, with the exception of the B-Line and UBC service. The latter will be introduced in September although it is proposed to operate the B-Line service on a partial route and schedule between downtown Vancouver and the new Airport transit station at Russ Baker Way and Miller Road.

### **Item 3.8—2001 Program Plan Development**

The Board received, for information, the report titled 2001 Program Plan Development.

TransLink is about to initiate the planning for developing the 2001 Program Plan. The 2001 Plan should reflect the following:

- First full year of implementation of the approved Strategic Transportation Plan;
- Introduction of Area Transit Plan recommendations from Richmond, South of Fraser, and North Shore;
- Opening of a portion of the new SkyTrain line, expansion of SkyTrain capacity and upgrading of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and New Westminster bus routes to connect with the new SkyTrain, and
- Optimization of the system as a result of improved transit monitoring.

### **Item 3.9—Transit Service Extension Request to Mission Border**

The Board directed staff to advise Ms. Linda Meyer that her requested extension of bus service toward the District of Mission boundary cannot be accommodated at the present time due to the limitations of the existing roads. The Board also directed staff to investigate the feasibility of the extension as a specific task in the Area Planning Program for Maple Ridge scheduled for 2001.

### **Item 3.10— Performance Report of Transit Services for First Quarter 2000**

The Board received the Performance Report of Transit Services for First Quarter 2000. Notable points included:



- Region-wide conventional transit service hours increased by 6.1 % compared to the same period last year
- Conventional transit ridership measured in linked trips (revenue passengers) increased by 7.3 %
- Operating cost per service hour for the Vancouver Region's Conventional Transit is 0.5 % lower than during the same period in 1999, and is favourable to target by 1.6 %
- Conventional transit fare revenue is 11.2 % higher than last year and 2.6 % higher than the target.

### **Item 3.11—Status Report on Area Transit Plans**

The Board received the Status Report on Area Transit Plans for information. The report provides a brief update on the status of the three Area Transit Plans (Richmond, South of Fraser, North Shore) since the May 2000 meeting.

Preliminary draft reports of the final plans for each of the three areas have been prepared for comment by TransLink and municipal staff and for input from the Public Advisory Committee.

### **Item 3.12—First Quarter Status Report & Municipal Update**

The Board received the June 21<sup>st</sup> report titled First Quarter Status Report & Municipal Update, and will be forwarding it to municipal Councils and other stakeholders for their information on TransLink's progress.

The report provides the TransLink Board and municipal Councils with an overview of key initiatives completed or initiated during the first quarter of 2000.

### **Item 3.13—Status Report on #98 B-Line Infrastructure**

The Board received the Status Report on #98 B-Line Infrastructure for information.

Substantial completion of the new Richmond Transit Centre is expected in July. Transit operations are scheduled to begin in September.

### **Item 3.14—Progress Report – Rapid Transit**

The Board received the Progress Report on Rapid Transit for information. The Board also approved a recommendation to appoint Director Kumagai to the Rapid Transit Sub-Committee and include planning for rapid transit to Richmond and the Airport within its mandate.

The Coquitlam extension is TransLink's priority; Chair Puil has advised the provincial government that a formal agreement on the extension is desired early in 2001.

TransLink has also advised the provincial government that it concurs with Vancouver's request to extend SkyTrain west to Granville Street. The provincial negotiator responded that more information is required before the Province can make a knowledgeable decision as to its position.

### **Item 3.15— Station Car Pilot Program**

The Board received the Station Car Pilot Program report for information, and directed staff to release an Expression of Interest for operation of the proposed pilots.

Rather than attempting to service low-density areas with conventional bus routes, a user-pay fleet of two-person micro cars will be deployed to serve residential and low-density business areas within a 10-kilometre radius of designated transit stations.

TransLink will undertake three pilot programs in the region-- at Edmonds SkyTrain station, 98 B-Line Airport Exchange, and West Coast Express Coquitlam Central station. Goals of the pilot program are:

- To show the acceptability of the multiple-user cars
- To develop/demonstrate intelligent electronics to support multiple use
- To learn how to maximize multiple use without interfering with the instant mobility needs of the user
- To drive the cost out of providing the service (relative to traditional car rental) to make station cars cost-effective from the consumer's viewpoint

### **Item 3.16—Transportation and Climate Change: Options for Action**

The Board requested that the federal government:

- consult directly with the appropriate municipal and regional agencies in Greater Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto regarding the development of a coherent national program to assist metropolitan areas to address greenhouse gas, growth management and transportation problems in these areas;
- recognize that it is in the national economic interest for there to be healthy, vibrant and efficient cities and implement a stable and ongoing program for funding urban transportation in the three large metropolitan areas.

The Board also directed TransLink staff to coordinate their efforts with the staff of the appropriate municipal and regional agencies in Greater Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal to make these actions more effective.



**Item 3.17—Lower Mainland Truck Freight Study: Progress Report**

The Board voted to defer discussion on the Lower Mainland Truck Freight Study Progress Report until the July 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**Item 3.18—Terms of Reference for the Strategic Transportation Plan Technical Advisory Committee**

The Board approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Strategic Transportation Plan Technical Advisory Committee, and formally received the correspondence from the Strategic Transportation Plan Technical Advisory Committee to the TransLink Board of Directors (dated March 22, 2000).

The Strategic Transportation Plan Technical Advisory Committee serves as an important conduit between TransLink and key private and public sector interests in the transportation system. Originally developed to advise and guide the development of TransLink's Strategic Transportation Plan, the committee will now continue to provide input into other important TransLink strategies.

*The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 am in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, 4330 Kingsway in Burnaby.*

*The next regular TransLink Board meeting will be Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 am, also in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom of the GVRD.*