



TRANSLINK BOARD-IN-BRIEF—OCTOBER 11, 2001

Here are the main points from the September 14 meeting of the TransLink Board of Directors. The complete agenda and supporting reports for every Board meeting are posted on TransLink's website (www.translink.bc.ca). The Board-in-Brief is also available on the website.

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.

Item 3.1—Recent Trends in Travel Behaviour: Analysis of the Greater Vancouver Trip Diary Survey

The Board received the September 24 report, titled as above, for information and forwarded the report to municipalities, the GVRD, and the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Transport.

The statistics compiled from the Trip Diary survey represent the travel behaviour of GVRD residents on a typical late fall weekday. These statistics are used to monitor, plan and administer the regional transportation system. The information is also used to analyze and update the Greater Vancouver transportation computer model that allows for the testing of various planning scenarios for the future.

The survey has revealed an increase in travelling throughout the region at a rate greater than that of the population growth rate, with the total number of trips just under 5.5 million per day. From 1994 to 1999, the increase in travel demand caused the afternoon "rush" period to spread by almost an hour.

Trends in regional modal shares have generally held stable between 1994 and 1999, with automobile driver trips accounting for almost 60% of all trips. Transit's trip share remained in the 10-11% range, while the share of walking and cycling trips increased from 12.7% to 14.3%.

Item 3.2—Roads and Transit Program Reductions in 2001

The Board received the report, titled as above, for information.

The report provides a brief overview of the reductions in the roads and transit program areas for 2001 as a consequence of the absence of additional funding. The Board approved these reductions in March 2001.

Item 3.3—2002 Program Plan and Budget Process

The Board received the October 1 report, titled as above, for information.

The 2002 budget development process will have two stages. A Preliminary Program Plan and Budget will be presented for approval in December, based on the 2002 preliminary Program Plan. The 2002 Final Program Plan and Budget will be presented early in 2002, after the public consultation process is complete and the TransLink and GVRD Boards have approved either the new funding sources or the service reduction measures necessary to balance the budget.

Item 3.4—Preview of Potential 2002 Major Road Network Minor Capital Program

The Board received the report, titled as above, for information.

Given TransLink's serious financial challenge of a \$40 - \$50 million shortfall next year, it was deemed timely to provide the Board with a report that provides some insight into preliminary projects that could potentially form a 2002 Major Road Network Minor Capital Program, if funding were available. Conversely, it also provided a sense of what needs would not be met in 2002 if the Program cannot be funded.

The MRN Minor Capital Program is developed in consultation with municipalities in the region through the Major Roads & Transportation Advisory Committee (MRTAC).

Item 3.5—Pets on Transit – Permanent Policy Change

The Board approved a permanent policy change allowing the carriage of small pets on public transit vehicles.

The carriage of small pets including dogs, cats, rabbits and small fur bearing or feathered pets in hand-held cages has been permitted since January 1 on a trial basis, and this pilot project has been judged as successful. Transit employees retain the right to refuse passage if the cage is judged to be too large or if the pet is annoying to other customers.

Item 3.6—Request for Exemption from Hydro Regional Transit Levy

The Board exempted a Vancouver resident from payment of the power levy for his second Hydro account.

Section 28(5) of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Act authorizes the Board to exempt persons from the payment of the Hydro levies added to a second account for a residential property.

Item 3.7—Burnaby Heights Community Shuttle—One-Year Review

The Board received the report, titled as above, for information.

As part of the 2000 Program Plan, the Board had approved the introduction of the Burnaby Heights Community Shuttle to replace an underutilized conventional transit service in the community. The service, which was introduced as a 16-month pilot project, commenced operation on September 4, 2000 and is being operated by Bonny's Taxi Ltd.

The Burnaby Heights Community Shuttle operates on a fixed route and schedule during the daytime and a flexible service design in the evening. The small eight-passenger minibus (which includes two wheelchair positions) is the appropriately sized vehicle to accommodate the ridership demand as well as traffic calming measures recently approved by the City of Burnaby, which preclude big bus operation.

Cost per passenger on the route has been reduced by 44%, to \$4.08 from \$7.30, although the route is still among the less productive in the region. Hourly costs have been reduced by 34% with the contracted shuttle operation, to \$43 from \$65.

Since the introduction of the service, ridership has grown from an average of 140 weekday boardings in September 2000 to an average of 191 weekday boardings in August 2001. Customer and community satisfaction with the Community Shuttle service continues to be high.

The next TransLink Board meeting will be held:

Date: Friday, November 23, 2001 (changed from November 16)
Time: 12:00 noon
Location: 2nd floor boardroom
Greater Vancouver Regional District offices
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby