



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** September 4, 2003
From: Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation **File:** 6480-03-02
Re: **AIRPORT STATION / NEWTON EXCHANGE EXPRESS BUS SERVICE (#301) –
INTRODUCTION OF BUS SERVICE ON SELECTED ROADS**

Staff Recommendation

That the use of Westminster Highway (at Highway 91 Interchange) and Alderbridge Way (Highway 91 to No. 4 Road) for new bus service by the #301 (Airport Station/Newton Exchange) express service as part of the TransLink 2003 Program Plan service changes commencing on December 15, 2003 be endorsed.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation
(local 4021)

Att. 1

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

Staff Report

Origin

At its regular meeting on June 23, 2003, Council approved the proposed implementation and public consultation process for the new #301 regional express bus service between Surrey, North Delta and Richmond. Following completion of public consultation activities in June and July 2003, TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company, with input from staff, have finalized a routing and are requesting City approval to introduce the new service on Westminster Highway (at the Highway 91 Interchange) and Alderbridge Way (Highway 91 to No. 4 Road). Such requests are TransLink's standard practice to ensure that municipalities are able to comment on possible implications of the use of a particular roadway and to make the resources available for the implementation of bus stop infrastructure and passenger amenities.

As part of the overall design and implementation process for the Richmond Area Transit Plan, Council approval is required to introduce new bus service on these roads. This staff report outlines the routing and frequency of the proposed express bus service and presents the results of the public consultation process. This new service would be implemented effective December 15, 2003.

Analysis

1. Proposed Routing Characteristics

The following routing characteristics are proposed for the new express bus service.

- Routing – The service will operate from Newton Exchange in Surrey via 72nd Avenue to Scottsdale Exchange, then 74th Avenue, 120th Street, 84th Avenue, Nordel Way to Highway 91, then Alderbridge Way, Garden City Road, Cook Road to Richmond Exchange, then No. 3 Road, Bridgeport Road, Russ Baker Way to Airport Station (see Attachment 1). The service will operate in the median busway on No. 3 Road and will stop at all #98 B-Line station stops along this section. The recommended routing connects the Surrey and Richmond town centres as well as the Kwantlen College campuses in each municipality.
- Use of Roadways – new roadway sections in Richmond that would be used by the service are Westminster Highway at the Highway 91 Interchange and Alderbridge Way between Highway 91 and No. 4 Road. The geometry of these sections of roadways are adequate to accommodate safe transit operations. TransLink staff determined from a field test that the proposed route is feasible from all service and operational considerations.
- Bus Stops – all proposed bus stops in Richmond currently exist.

2. Public Consultation Process

TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company held two separate all day public open houses – one in Richmond at the Richmond Centre Mall in June 2003 and one in Surrey at the Strawberry Hill Public Library in July 2003. Advertisements advising of the open houses were placed in editions of both local newspapers preceding the event and TransLink also listed the events in the *Buzzer*, which is the agency's public newsletter. TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company staff attended both open houses to answer questions and comment sheets were available for the public to provide further feedback.

The open house display material presented the public with three alternative routings for this service within Richmond:

- (1) Highway 91, No. 6 Road, Bridgeport Road and the Airport Connector to Airport Station;
- (2) Highway 91, Alderbridge Way, Garden City Road, Lansdowne Road, No. 3 Road, Bridgeport Road and the Airport Connector to Airport Station; or
- (3) Highway 91, Alderbridge Way, Garden City Road, Cook Road, No. 3 Road, Bridgeport Road and the Airport Connector to Airport Station.

Based on the feedback received, the public was highly supportive of the new service and overwhelmingly preferred Routing (3), which includes service to the Richmond Exchange at Cook Road and No. 3 Road. Feedback received from Municipality of Delta staff resulted in a modification of the route in North Delta from the initial proposed route: the service will now travel on 84th Avenue from 120th Street to Nordel Way rather than along 120th Street to Nordel Way.

Financial Impact

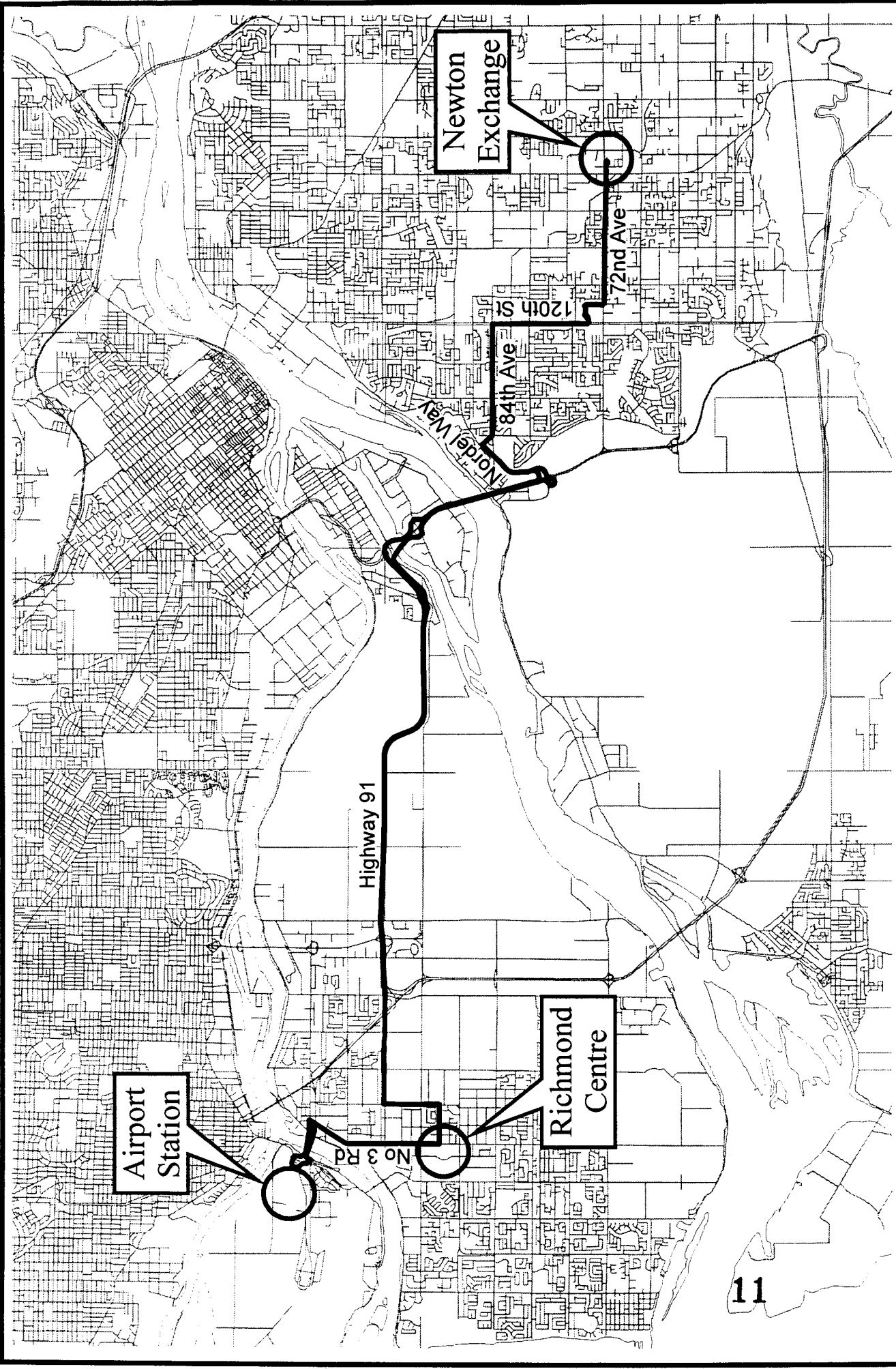
There is no financial impact to the City at this time as all of the proposed bus stops currently exist. Any future required transit passenger amenities (e.g., accessible bus stop installations) or other transit infrastructure improvements (e.g., minor road works to accommodate transit operations) would be eligible for 50/50 cost-sharing between the City and TransLink. The City's share of the minor improvements required to complement this service will be presented for Council approval as part of the annual Capital Works Program process.

Conclusion

As part of the on-going implementation of the Richmond Area Transit Plan, TransLink plans to introduce a regional express bus service in December 2003 between Surrey/North Delta and Richmond. TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company have completed a public consultation process on the proposed service plan and have received positive feedback on the planned routing and operating characteristics of the service. Staff therefore recommend that the use of Westminster Highway (at Highway 91 Interchange) and Alderbridge Way (Highway 91 to No. 4 Road) for the new service effective December 15, 2003 be endorsed.



Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner
(local 4035)



301 Airport Station/Newton Exchange Express

Proposed Routing