

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019**

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PRESENT: Mayor V. Cumming

Councillors: A. Mund, K. Gares, K. Fehr, B. Quiring,  
D. Nahal, S. Anderson

Staff: W. Pearce, CAO  
S. Blakely, Manager, Legislative Services  
N. Nilsen, Communications Officer & Grants Coordinator  
S. Koenig, Director, Operations  
K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development  
D. Law, Director, Financial Services  
G. Gaucher, Manager, Protective Services  
D. Lees, Senior Bylaw Compliance Officer  
A. Watson, Manager, Transportation  
D. Ross, Director, Recreation Services  
A. Stuart, Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting\*  
Insp. G. Stewart, RCMP, Vernon Detachment \*

\*Attended as required

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Victor Cumming called the meeting to order at 8:43 am.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Fehr:

THAT the Agenda for the March 25, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

**ADOPTION OF THE  
MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Gares:

THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Council held March 11, 2019, be adopted, as presented.

**CARRIED.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**GENERAL MATTERS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TRANSIT SERVICE '101'**

Amanda Watson, Manager, Transportation and Chris Fudge, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit provided Council with a "101" Overview of Transit Service in Vernon.

**Chris Fudge, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit:**

- BC Transit Overview
  - Government Relations – Key Accountabilities
    - Ensuring timely dissemination of information
    - Communicate overall performance
    - Identify & mitigate potential issues
    - First point of contact for local government
    - Supported by a team of subject matter experts
- BC Transit is the provincial authority responsible for planning, funding and operating all transit throughout the Province (excluding Metro Vancouver)
- Regional Systems
  - North Central
  - Vancouver Island/Coastal
  - South Coast
  - Southern Interior
  - Kootenays
- Transit Services
  - Conventional Transit
    - Fixed routes & schedules
    - Mainly urban settings
    - Range of vehicles
  - Custom Transit (HandiDart)
    - Door to door
    - Demand responsive
    - Eligible people with a disability
    - Links to tax programs
  - Paratransit
    - Flexible routing and schedules
    - Light duty accessible vehicles
    - Small towns and rural communities
  - Health Connections
    - Paratransit service funded by Health Authority
    - Provides access to medical appointments
    - Small town and rural communities
- Review of BC Transit Partnership Model
- Review of Roles & Responsibilities of BC Transit, Local Government and Local Operating Company
- Review of BC Transit Shared Services Model – Legislated Funding Formula
  - Conventional Transit - Provincial Share – 46.69%, Municipal Share – 53.31%
  - Custom Transit (HandiDart) – Provincial Share – 66.69%, Municipal Share – 33.31%
- How We Can Support Your Transit System
  - Involve us at the strategic level prior to decision making
  - Let us support your local planning

- Development Referral Program
- Review of BC Transit Annual Partner Communication
- North Okanagan Transit Future Plan
  - 25-year transit plan for region – completed in 2014
  - Identifies strategic changes to the transit network and supporting infrastructure and guides transit investment
- System Information & Performance – Overall System Scope
  - Local & regional services integrated in one transit system:
    - Conventional fixed-route
    - Route 90 UBCO Connector
    - Routes 60 & 61
    - Custom (HandiDart)
  - City of Vernon, District of Coldstream & RDNO partners
  - Last major service change – April 2018 (7000 annual service hour expansion)
- Vernon Regional Transit – Conventional
  - Overall System Scope
    - 33,800 service hours annually
    - 495,000 passenger trips per year
  - Operations
    - First Transit
    - 12 medium duty buses
  - Funding
    - City of Vernon: 53.31%
    - Province: 46.69%
- Vernon Regional Transit – Custom
  - Overall System Scope:
    - Weekday service
    - Saturday service
    - No Sunday service
    - 13,800 service hours annually
    - 58,000 passenger trips per year
  - Operations:
    - First Transit using 9 light duty buses
  - Funding:
    - City of Vernon: 33.31% - MOU with RDNO and Coldstream
    - Province: 66.69%
- System Performance – Conventional vs. Custom reviewed
  - Route 90 – UBCOM Connector (RDNO Service) – Overall System Scope:
    - Weekday service
    - Saturday service
    - No Sunday service
    - 5,000 service hours annually
    - 99,000 passenger trips per year

- Operations
  - First Transit
  - 3 heavy duty buses
- Funding
  - RDNO: 53.31% (funding allocation by bylaw)
  - Province: 46.69%
- Looking Ahead:
  - Future Projects/Priorities
    - Next steps to implement Transit Future Plan
    - New service to Middleton Mountain
    - Technology enhancement (SmartBus)

**Amanda Watson, Manager, Transportation:**

- Top 10 Benefits of Transit reviewed
  - Community economic benefits
  - Community health benefits
  - Reduces / avoids road congestion
  - Lessens gas use and reduces pollution
  - Millennials prefer transit lifestyle over sprawl
  - Freedom and mobility amplified
  - Household expenses reduced
  - Social connections increase when driving is decreased
  - Transit commuters more productive
  - Is a safe and equitable transportation mode
- Reviewed 25 Year Master Transportation Plan
  - Annual transit trips to triple by 2038
- North Okanagan Transit Future Plan
  - BC Transit developed a 25 year transit plan for the region which was completed in 2014
  - Identifies strategic changes to the transit network and supporting infrastructure and guides transit investment
- 25 Year Master Transportation Plan
  1. Transit Future Plan
  2. Implement priority bus route changes
  3. Bus stop improvement program
  4. Incentives & measures to maximize ridership
  5. Custom transit pilot project
- Short Term Implementation 2015 – 2020 reviewed
- Level of Service – Service Description reviewed
- Level of Service – Transit Service Hours reviewed
- Current transit network reviewed
- Available transportation modes noted
- How will driverless cars, more ride-share and more integrated transport systems alter our journeys?
- 'Buses on Demand' concept noted
- Level of Service – Transit Service Frequency reviewed

*Councillor Fehr left the meeting at 9:24 am.*

*Councillor Anderson left the meeting at 9:25 am*

*Councillor Fehr returned to the meeting at 9:27 am*

*Councillor Anderson returned to the meeting at 9:28 am*

Moved by Councillor Mund, seconded by Councillor Anderson:

THAT Council receives the presentation from Amanda Watson, Manager, Transportation and Chris Fudge, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit regarding an overview of the Transit Service in Vernon;

AND FURTHER, that Council requests an Annual overview of the Transit Service in Vernon be provided in June of each year.  
**CARRIED.**

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

**COUNCIL INFORMATION UPDATES**

**G.V.A.C./R.D.N.O. REGULAR MEETINGS**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**CLOSE**

Mayor Victor Cumming closed the meeting at 9:55 am.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

  
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Mayor:

  
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Dep. Corporate Officer: