

RE: BC Bus North - Background Info

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX, Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Cc: Mercer, Andrea PREM:EX
Sent: December 2, 2020 12:01:21 PM PST
Attachments: image003.png, image001.png

Thank you Linda.

db

From: Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX
Sent: December 2, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX ; Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Cc: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX
Subject: RE: BC Bus North - Background Info

Hello Deborah

Attached is a general summary of provincially funded public transportation services in the North. The BC Transit service in the note includes the Hwy 16 Inter-community service.

This is more general than the information sent earlier.

Linda

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 2, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>; Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX <Linda.Harmon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BC Bus North - Background Info

Thanks for all of this but too much detailed information for me to digest before the meeting this afternoon.

Can I please have a one pager of bullets instead or just send me the highlights cut and pasted from the combination of materials you've sent? Thanks so much, db

From: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 2, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>; Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX <Linda.Harmon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BC Bus North - Background Info

Morning Deborah –

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

Let me know if there was any

other information / documents that you would find useful to have available for the call.

Thanks to Linda for pulling this information together on short notice.

Andrea

Andrea Mercer, CD, Env.Tech, BSc, MPA

Executive Director

Transit Branch| Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5D – 940 Blanshard Street | Victoria BC | V8W 9T5

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/tran

Email: Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 778.974.4992 | Mobile: 250.812.5486

FW: MRF Briefing

From: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX <s.15 ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP s.15>
To: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Sent: December 14, 2020 9:39:13 AM PST
Attachments: Template A_Dec 11_8 pm.docx

From: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX
Sent: December 11, 2020 8:34 PM
To: Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX
Subject: RE: MRF Briefing
Here is the latest with Deborah's updates.

From: Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 11, 2020 8:31 PM
To: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX <Lea.Plamondon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: TRAN HQ EXECUTIVE <THHEXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>; Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>; Hayre, Courtney TRAN:EX <Courtney.Hayre@gov.bc.ca>; Hitchman, Laurel TRAN:EX <Laurel.Hitchman@gov.bc.ca>; Hurn, Morgan TRAN:EX <Morgan.Hurn@gov.bc.ca>; Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX <Carlee.Kubisheski@gov.bc.ca>; Lewthwaite, Jennifer TRAN:EX <Jennifer.Lewthwaite@gov.bc.ca>; Mazerolle, Beulah TRAN:EX <Beulah.Mazerolle@gov.bc.ca>; Neate, Sara TRAN:EX <Sara.Neate@gov.bc.ca>; Phillips, Holly TRAN:EX <Holly.Phillips@gov.bc.ca>; Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>; Smith, Victoria TRAN:EX <Victoria.Smith@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: MRF Briefing

Thanks for the notes and consolidation- and thanks to EVERYONE for pulling all of this together on short order. This is a very good first draft list.

Because it is due today, I will send this version but ask that you and your teams continue to work with Deb's to further refine it to reflect our discussion with the Minister this afternoon. I shared our proposed Tier 1/Tier 2 approaches. 13 and they're ok with us sending a revised list with all final draft T1/T2 commitments on the 21st, so let's assume we'll get today's feedback into the final Tier 1 draft early next week and can then review the Tier 2 list and add content from the items we decide warrant going up to the corporate list.

Hope that makes sense. Have a great weekend.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 11, 2020, at 6:46 PM, Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX <Lea.Plamondon@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good evening:

Please see attached updated Templates A with edits received so far (from Steve, Renee and Kevin R).

This version also includes the 2017 commitments.

Below are some notes from Jen. Please ensure all the info has been captured in your updates.

Thank you

Lea

From: Lewthwaite, Jennifer TRAN:EX <Jennifer.Lewthwaite@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 11, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX <Lea.Plamondon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>; Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: MRF Briefing

Here's what I had from about 3:20 on....

s.13; s.16; s.17

s.13; s.16; s.17

Jen Lewthwaite
Director
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
250-882-7527

RE: BC Bus North & Western Economic Diversification

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Mercer, Andrea PREM:EX
Sent: January 13, 2021 4:31:27 PM PST
Attachments: image003.png

Great so how does that affect the safe restart funding?

----- Original message -----

From: "Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX"
Date: 2021-01-13 3:57 p.m. (GMT-08:00)
To: "Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX"
Subject: FW: BC Bus North & Western Economic Diversification
s.13

Andrea Mercer, CD, Env.Tech, BSc, MPA
Executive Director
Transit Branch | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
5D – 940 Blanshard Street | Victoria BC | V8W 9T5
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/tran
Email: Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 778.974.4992 | Mobile: 250.812.5486



Where ideas work

From: Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX
Sent: January 13, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX
Cc: Snead, Jennifer E TRAN:EX ; Laird, Corinna A TRAN:EX
Subject: BC Bus North & Western Economic Diversification
Good News!
s.13

Linda
s.13

Linda Harmon
Director, Strategic Outreach & Business Engagement
Transit Branch | Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
5D-940 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC, V8W 9T5 | 📞 778 974 5313

From: [Gates, Brittany](#) TRAN:EX
To: [Mazerolle, Beulah](#) TRAN:EX
Cc: [Plamondon, Lea](#) TRAN:EX; [Kubisheski, Carlee](#) TRAN:EX; [Gedney, Vanessa R](#) TRAN:EX
Subject: MRF BRIEFING MATERIALS | COVID Transportation Industry Supports | January 21
Date: January 18, 2021 3:16:00 PM

Good afternoon Beulah,

The following MRF meeting has been scheduled for next week. Please advise if there will be materials provided for the following:

CLIFF/eApp #	TBC
MRF Meeting topic:	COVID Transportation Industry Supports
Participants:	Kaye Krishna, Renee Mounteney, Steve Haywood
Date:	January 21 st @ 4:30
Duration:	45 mins
Materials:	TBC

NOTE:

- Please send **all** requests to Carlee, Lea, Vanessa and Brittany

Thank you,

Brittany Gates
Documents Coordinator
Office of the Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
250-387-3198 | 778-974-5471
Brittany.Gates@gov.bc.ca

Brittany Gates
Documents Coordinator
Office of the Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
250-387-3198 | 778-974-5471
Brittany.Gates@gov.bc.ca

BRIEFING IBN: COVID-19 Transportation Industry Supports | Date: January 21

From: Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>
To: Waters, Leah EDUC:EX
Cc: Beale, William EDUC:EX, Brewer, Lia PREM:EX, Gates, Brittany TRAN:EX, Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX, Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX
Sent: January 20, 2021 11:47:07 PM PST
Attachments: 2021-01-20_300613_MIN IBN_COVID-19 Transportation Industry Supports.pdf

Good evening, the following IBN has been attached and uploaded to the [WebDAV](#):

BRIEFING:	COVID-19 Transportation Industry Supports
DATE:	January 20, 2021
TIME:	4:30 pm – 5:15 pm
LOCATION:	MS Team Meeting
STAFF PARTICIPANTS:	Kaye Krishna Renee Mounteney Steve Heywood Vanessa Gedney

From: Waters, Leah TRAN:EX
Sent: January 18, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX
Cc: Gates, Brittany TRAN:EX
Subject: RE: MRF MEETING REQUESTS

Could we do the first on the 21st at 4:30PM?

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

For coffee, perhaps next week the 28th at 10AM?

From: Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX
Sent: January 18, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Waters, Leah TRAN:EX
Cc: Gates, Brittany TRAN:EX
Subject: MRF MEETING REQUESTS

Hi Leah,

Kaye let me know MRF requested the below meetings:

- Meeting with MRF, Kaye, Renee, and Steve on Wednesday or Thursday this week. "COVID Transportation Industry Supports"
- A coffee this week or next with MRF, Silas Brownsey and Kaye Krishna

Thank you,

Carlee Kubisheski | Senior Executive Assistant

To Deputy Minister, Kaye Krishna

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

778-698-1828



BACKGROUND:

The motor coach industry play an important role in the BC tourism and transportation sectors. Many low-income groups, remote communities with no public transportation options, sport teams and elders, rely on motor coach services to move from one place to another.

The tourism sector, which generated \$20.5 billion in 2018, depends on the motor coach, taxi, and limousine industries to transport tourists to businesses, sightseeing and event locations across the province.

The BC Motor Coach Coalition (BCMCC) is a group of 12 transportation companies operating private inter-city buses, charter buses, sightseeing, airport and ferry shuttles in BC. The coalition was established to advocate for increased support for the motor coach industry as it continues to experience losses due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a BCMCC October 29, 2020 statement, the motor coach industry's monthly gross revenues have declined by at least 95% since March 2020. Additionally, the coalition's members are estimating that their 2021 revenues will be less than 50% of "normal" levels.

COVID Support Measures

In order to limit the financial impact of COVID on the on-road passenger transportation industry, in March 2020, the Board allowed operators to temporarily reduce or suspend scheduled services until further notice.

The Ministry amended the Passenger Transportation Regulation to allow passenger transportation licensees to defer their licence renewal payments for a period of up to one year if they were not operating. This regulation remains in effect until June 1, 2021. Additionally, annual taxi license fees were reduced from \$100 to \$50 per taxi with a maximum of \$5,000 per company.

ICBC implemented an insurance policy change, which allowed fleet operators to suspend their insurance if vehicles were not in use without incurring costs. As such, licensees were able to change the insurance from their basic rate plan to Rate Class 919, which does not have any associated premiums or insurance coverage.

ICBC also waived exit taxes when a licensee cancels the prorated licence on multijurisdictional vehicles (MJV), replacing it with a licence for use solely in BC. Motor coach licensees must make this change between March 11 and September 30, 2020 to qualify.

Additionally, for each vehicle taken out of operation, ICBC provided a refund of the multijurisdictional vehicle (MJV) tax¹ for the remaining months in the licensee's Pro Rate insurance term.

The federal and provincial governments established a number of programs to provide financial assistance to all small and medium-sized companies to cushion the effect of COVID-19.

¹ The MJV tax is a BC tax paid on multijurisdictional vehicles that are based in BC or other jurisdictions and licensed under the prorated agreement -the International Registration Plan (IRP).



s.13

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None.

Attachment:

1. Proposal from John Wilson, President & Chief Executive Officer, The Wilson's Group of Companies

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED BY:	DATE:
Steve Haywood, Registrar Passenger Transportation Branch	Renée Mounteney, ADM Highway Services	RM
	Nancy Bain, EFO Finance and Management Services Department	N/A
	Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister	KK

**WILSON'S TRANSPORTATION
SOLUTION FOR CONTINUING ESSENTIAL BUSING FOR FIRST NATIONS AND SMALL
COMMUNITIES AND FIRST NATIONS
FOR DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER FLEMING, JANUARY 18, 2021**

The Public Safety Risk:

Intercity bus service provides the **same essential service as public transit**. It takes people to medical appointments, essential work, school, childcare and to get their prescriptions and groceries. It is particularly critical for those with low income and in remote communities.

On Vancouver Island, **twenty-nine communities** are served with intercity busing by Wilson's **Tofino Bus** and **Vancouver Island Connector** (see attachment). Many of these communities are small, isolated communities with no other transportation services.

Wilson's has contracts with **21 First Nations, Tribal Councils and First Nations Health Organizations** (see attachment) on the island to provide essential travel to their members, who have no other means of transportation.

82,500 riders on Vancouver Island used Wilson's intercity busing services in 2019.

Due to COVID 19 work and travel restrictions, revenue on these routes has been **down 95% since March, 2020**. The service was **suspended on December 7th** due to public health orders. Wilson's would like to **restart it on February 12th** but **will be unable to do so unless it has an adequate source of revenue**. The federal COVID related subsidies and grants are inadequate to operate this service.

If this essential service is permanently cancelled by Wilson's, these **communities will turn to the Minister of Transportation to provide the service**. BC Transit is being subsidized by the federal and provincial government in recognition that busing is an essential service and that there is a 60% drop in riders and loss of fare revenue.

In addition, when intercity bus routes were cancelled by Greyhound, the BC and federal government stepped in to create and fund **BC Bus North** and service along **Highway 16** through BC Transit in recognition of the **public safety risk** created by the loss of bus service.

Wilson's planned to transition to **electric buses** for this service using the **CleanBC** subsidy but cannot do so with no revenue.

The Solution:

To avoid the **disruption, cost and public safety risk** created by cancelling intercity busing on Vancouver Island, Wilson's is requesting a **one-year emergency COVID recovery contract with the Ministry to continue this essential service until ridership is restored**.

This solution will **prevent a gap in service** for these communities, it will **avoid government having to take on the long-term cost** of intercity busing on the island and it will ensure Wilson's Transportation is still around to serve these communities during **economic recovery** from COVID 19.

Wilson's is flexible with regard to the terms and conditions of an emergency COVID recovery contract for this essential service. The contract must cover the **operating costs** of this essential service as described in the attachment. Wilson's would then submit all fares to government and as ridership recovers the cost of the contract to government would decline. Wilson anticipates being **fully recovered by early 2022** and no longer in need of this assistance.

Wilson's looks forward to working productively with you to save this essential service for island communities and First Nations.



VI Connector and Tofino Bus
Serviced Communities

Victoria	Qualicum Bay
Saanich	Fanny Bay
View Royal	Buckley Bay
Langford	Union Bay
Mill Bay	Royston
Cobble Hill	Courtenay
Cowichan Bay	Merville
Duncan	Black Creek
Chemainus	Oyster River
Ladysmith	Campbell River
Nanaimo – South	Coombs
Nanaimo - Central	Whiskey Creek
Nanaimo - North	Port Alberni
Parksville	Ucluelet
Qualicum Beach	Tofino

Tofino Bus Services Inc.
Sales by Customer Summary
January - December 2019

No.	Clients
1	Ahousaht Band Council
2	Alberni Clayoquot
3	Ditidaht First Nations
4	Ehattesaht/Chinehkint
5	First Nations Health Authority
6	Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations
7	Hesquiaht First Nation
8	House of Himwitsa
9	Huu-ay-aht First Nations
10	ITHA - Inter Tribal Health Authority
11	Kayuk't'/Chektles7et'h' Nation
12	Kwakiutl Band Council - Health
13	Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nations
14	Kyuquot First Nation
15	Ministry of Justice
16	Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Victoria
17	Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General-Nanaimo
18	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
19	Nuchatlaht Tribe
20	Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
21	Nuu-Chah-nulth Tribal Council; Usma Nuu-chah-nulth Family & Child Services
22	Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations
23	Tsewulhtun Health Centre
24	Ucluelet First Nation
25	Wel Wai Kum First Nations

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.21

FW: s.13; s.16

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Sent: February 9, 2021 10:55:25 AM PST

Please see instructions below, thanks, db

From: Barbara Underhill

Sent: February 8, 2021 7:53 PM

To: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX ; Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX ; Slanina, Ellen TRAN:EX

Cc: Todosichuk, Ardice OAG:EX ; Yearwood-Lee, Emily OAG:EX ; Plaschka, Christina OAG:EX

Subject:s.13; s.16

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

s.13; s.16

FOR ATTENTION | IBN #300787: Inter-City and Rural Transportation Landscape - Diversified Transportation

From: Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica TRAN:EX
Cc: Casselman, Laura TRAN:EX, Grant, Lisa TRAN:EX, Privett, Kaleigh TRAN:EX, Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX, Gates, Brittany TRAN:EX, Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX
Sent: February 16, 2021 2:41:19 PM PST
Attachments: 2021-02-16_300787_MRF IBN_Inter-City and Rural Transportation Landscape.pdf

Good afternoon, the attached IBN, has been uploaded to the WebDAV<\\adidas\ebinder\prem\prem\bcmin0009\mo\dmo\05_Information_BNs> for Minister Fleming's attention; MRF requested information on this issue at a previous meeting.

PURPOSE: Diversified Transportation would like to discuss the current state of the inter-city and rural transportation landscape on BC's mainland and the future of a sustainable inter-city network.

SUMMARY:

- Inter-city buses provide scheduled services between municipalities, cities, or regions. Service is provided on a predetermined route between fixed terminating points. Many British Columbians rely on inter-city bus as an essential service.
- Inter-city bus services provide an affordable and reliable support to travel to medical appointments, employment, school, childcare and to access medical services, shopping and groceries. It is particularly critical for individuals with lower incomes living in remote communities who have limited or no other transportation options, including Indigenous communities.
- The motor coach sector provides opportunities for mass passenger transportation to events, tourist attractions, airport transfers, sports teams, etc.
- The ministry has met with the industry to understand their concerns and remains committed to working towards solutions to help this sector.
- On January 27, 2021 a cross ministry working group was formed with representatives from Transportation & Infrastructure (TRAN), Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation (JERI), Tourism, Arts & Culture (TAC) and Finance (FIN). The group has been working on an omnibus Treasury Board (TB) submission which identifies funding gaps and needs in TRAN and TAC sectors with JERI as the lead.

Thank you,

VANESSA R. GEDNEY (Preferred Pronouns: she/her/hers)
Director, Executive Operations
Office of the Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
5th Floor, 940 Blanshard St| Victoria BC V8W 9T5
Office: 778.698.3472 | Cell: 250.361.5403



INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: February 16, 2021

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

ISSUE: Inter-City and Rural Transportation Landscape

PURPOSE: Diversified Transportation would like to discuss the current state of the inter-city and rural transportation landscape on BC's mainland and the future of a sustainable inter-city network.

SUMMARY:

- Inter-city buses provide scheduled services between municipalities, cities, or regions. Service is provided on a predetermined route between fixed terminating points. Many British Columbians rely on inter-city bus as an essential service.
- Inter-city bus services provide an affordable and reliable support to travel to medical appointments, employment, school, childcare and to access medical services, shopping and groceries. It is particularly critical for individuals with lower incomes living in remote communities who have limited or no other transportation options, including Indigenous communities.
- The motor coach sector provides opportunities for mass passenger transportation to events, tourist attractions, airport transfers, sports teams, etc.
- The ministry has met with the industry to understand their concerns and remains committed to working towards solutions to help this sector.
- On January 27, 2021 a cross ministry working group was formed with representatives from Transportation & Infrastructure (TRAN), Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation (JERI), Tourism, Arts & Culture (TAC) and Finance (FIN). The group has been working on an omnibus Treasury Board (TB) submission which identifies funding gaps and needs in TRAN and TAC sectors with JERI as the lead.

BACKGROUND:

Diversified Transportation Ltd. is owned by Pacific Western Group of Companies headquartered in Calgary, Alberta. Pacific Western Group has several subsidiaries in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and the Yukon.

John Stepovy, Director Motorcoach, is a director for the parent company Pacific Western Group.

Diversified Transportation Ltd. has a General Authorization and Special Authorization (Inter-City Bus) Passenger Transportation Licence.

On October 16, 2018 The Passenger Transportation Board approved all three inter-city bus routes under the SA licence.

Diversified Transportation Ltd. operates their inter-city bus under the trade name "Ebus." Ebus is currently operating all three inter-city bus routes one round trip per day.

1. Vancouver – Kamloops (1 round trip per day)
2. Kamloops – Kelowna (1 round trip per day)



3. Kelowna – Vancouver (1 round trip per day)

Based on the PT licensing information, Diversified's BC operations are based out of Prince George, BC.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on businesses of all scales and sizes across B.C. These sectors have suffered major service reductions associated to the provincial health officer restrictions on travel, congregations, and the drop-in tourism across the province.

- Operating generally at 3-5% pre-pandemic level

The inter-city bus and motor coach sector play an important role in the BC tourism and transportation sectors. Many low-income groups, remote communities with no public transportation options, sport teams and elders, rely on these services to move from one place to another.

The tourism sector, which generated \$20.5 billion in 2018, depends on the motor coach industry to transport tourists to businesses, sightseeing and event locations across the province.

The federal and provincial governments have rolled out various COVID-19 relief and recovery programs to help businesses financially through the pandemic, including wage subsidies, rent and tax relief, small and medium business grant programs, and other sector-specific funding supports.

Although there is a suite of relief programs, some businesses and operators have approached the province stating they are ineligible, and/or the existing programs do not provide enough relief to enable them to remain operational. Immediate assistance is required over the next 12 months and particularly while travel restrictions, public health orders and the provincial state of emergency remain in place.

DISCUSSION:

There are a subset of businesses in the transportation sector not adequately served by government relief programs and facing significant hardship as the pandemic approaches the one-year mark. In particular, private operators and businesses that provide transportation services, such as Diversified Transportation's EBus intercity motorcoach service, BC Bus North, Northern Health Connection and a number of school and transit services.

In order to limit the financial impact of COVID on this industry, in March 2020, the Passenger Transportation Board allowed operators to temporarily reduce or suspend scheduled services until further notice.

The Passenger Transportation Branch amended the Passenger Transportation Regulation to allow passenger transportation licensees to defer their licence renewal payments for a period of up to one year if they were not operating. This regulation remains in effect until June 1, 2021.

ICBC implemented an insurance policy change, which allowed fleet operators to suspend their insurance if vehicles were not in use without incurring costs. As such, licensees were able to change the insurance on parked vehicles from their basic rate plan to Rate Class 919, which does not have any associated premiums or insurance coverage.

ICBC waived exit taxes when a licensee cancels the prorated licence on multijurisdictional vehicles (MJV), replacing it with a licence for use solely in BC. Motor coach licensees must make this change between March 11 and September 30, 2020 to qualify.



Additionally, for each motor coach taken out of operation, ICBC provided a refund of the multijurisdictional vehicle (MJV) tax¹ for the remaining months in the licensee's Pro Rate insurance term.

The federal and provincial governments established a number of programs to provide financial assistance to all small and medium-sized companies to cushion the effect of COVID-19.

The federal government established the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 (recently increased to \$60,000) to businesses that are seriously impacted by the pandemic. The CEBA application deadline is March 31, 2021.

The federal government also established the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) to provide wage and rent relief respectively, to businesses impacted by the pandemic. Both programs are available until June 2021.

The BC government established the Small and Medium-Sized business Recovery Grant program to provide fully funded grants of up to \$30,000 to businesses to ensure support during and beyond COVID-19. The program also provides an additional \$15,000 funding to eligible tourism related businesses that have been heavily impacted by the pandemic.

s.12; s.13

As a result of this work, TRAN has been invited to submit a TB submission for intercity bus and airport funding which will be distributed by March 31, 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None.

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED BY:	DATE:
Steven Haywood, Executive Lead, Taxi Modernization & Ride Hailing Passenger Transportation Branch (604) 220-7176	Ed Miska, Acting/Assistant Deputy Minister	21-Feb-16
	Highways Services	
	Nancy Bain, EFO	21-Feb-2
	Finance and Management Services Department	
	Kaye Krishna, Deputy Minister	21-Feb-16

¹ The MJV tax is a BC tax paid on multijurisdictional vehicles that are based in BC or other jurisdictions and licensed under the prorate agreement -the International Registration Plan (IRP).

When a licence is obtained or renewed for an MJV in BC, the person who licenses the vehicle is required to pay MJV tax to ICBC. Similarly, when an MJV licensed in another jurisdiction is used in BC, MJV tax applies. The jurisdiction that issues the licence will collect the MJV tax and will forward it to BC. The MJV tax is paid in annual installments over the life of the vehicle and is based on a proportional formula which takes into account the travel ratio by the vehicle in BC, and its fair market value. See the [Provincial Sales Tax Bulletin](#) for additional information.

s.12; s.13

From: Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica TRAN:EX
Cc: Casselman, Laura TRAN:EX, Grant, Lisa TRAN:EX, Privett, Kaleigh TRAN:EX,
Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX, Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX
Sent: February 17, 2021 11:03:54 PM PST
Attachments:

s.12; s.13

Good evening Veronica, please find attached, the
s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

Communications Plan

VANESSA R. GEDNEY (Preferred Pronouns: she/her/hers)
Director, Executive Operations
Office of the Deputy Minister
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
5th Floor, 940 Blanshard St| Victoria BC V8W 9T5
Office: 778.698.3472 | Cell: 250.361.5403

FW: s.13; s.16

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Courtnall, Andrea TRAN:EX
Cc: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Sent: February 24, 2021 9:24:17 AM PST

From: Barbara Underhill

Sent: February 19, 2021 3:37 PM

To: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX ; Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX ; Slanina, Ellen TRAN:EX

Cc: Todosichuk, Ardice OAG:EX ; Yearwood-Lee, Emily OAG:EX ; Plaschka, Christina OAG:EX

Subject: s.13; s.16

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

s.13; s.16

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13



INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: February 25, 2021
PREPARED FOR: Deborah Bowman, ADM Transportation Policy and Programs
Doug Foster, ADM, Ministry of Finance
ISSUE: Ongoing funding for Northern transportation services (BC Bus North).

SUMMARY:

- s.12; s.13; s.16; s.17

BACKGROUND:

BC Bus North started operation on June 4, 2018 following the abrupt departure of Greyhound. Service is currently provided by Diversified under a contract with BC Transit. Diversified provides qualified drivers, four 56-seat motorcoaches, a customer on-line booking system and a 7 day-a-week call centre.

BC Bus North provides two roundtrips per week on three routes: Prince George – Prince Rupert, Valemount – Prince George, Prince George – Fort St. John. There is one round trip per week between Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson.

DISCUSSION:

BC Bus North's annual operating cost is about \$1.4 million. For the first year, BC Transit was directed to fund the service within its existing budget appropriation.

In June 2019, with approval of Treasury Board, the Ministry entered into a cost-sharing agreement with Western Economic Diversification (WD) to provide fifty per cent of the annual operating costs. The current agreement with WD terminates March 31, 2021.

The WD grant for the period June 2019 through March 2021 was \$1.9M. An estimate for the WD claim for the last quarter of this fiscal has been made which would result in total claims of about \$910,000, leaving \$990,000 available. WD has expressed interest in extending the cost-sharing funding agreement for BC Bus North through to March 31, 2022. The Ministry is seeking Treasury Board approval to extend the agreement with WD to March 31, 2022.

A condition of the WD funding was that a competitive process be used to select an operator for BC Bus North. The operator's agreement ends on March 31, 2021. However, procurement advice has been sought and the agreement can be extended to March 31, 2022. Beyond this date, it is recommended that a competition be conducted for the contract. The competitive process takes about 6 months and should start, at the latest, in August 2021 in order that an operator is in place as of April 1, 2022 ensuring that there is no disruption to service.

Treasury Board has stipulated that Cabinet endorse an intercity ground transportation policy framework before further funding requests for BC Bus North are submitted. This work is in progress.

The Office of the Auditor General is conducting a performance audit on northern public transportation. The audit report is expected in Fall 2021.



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

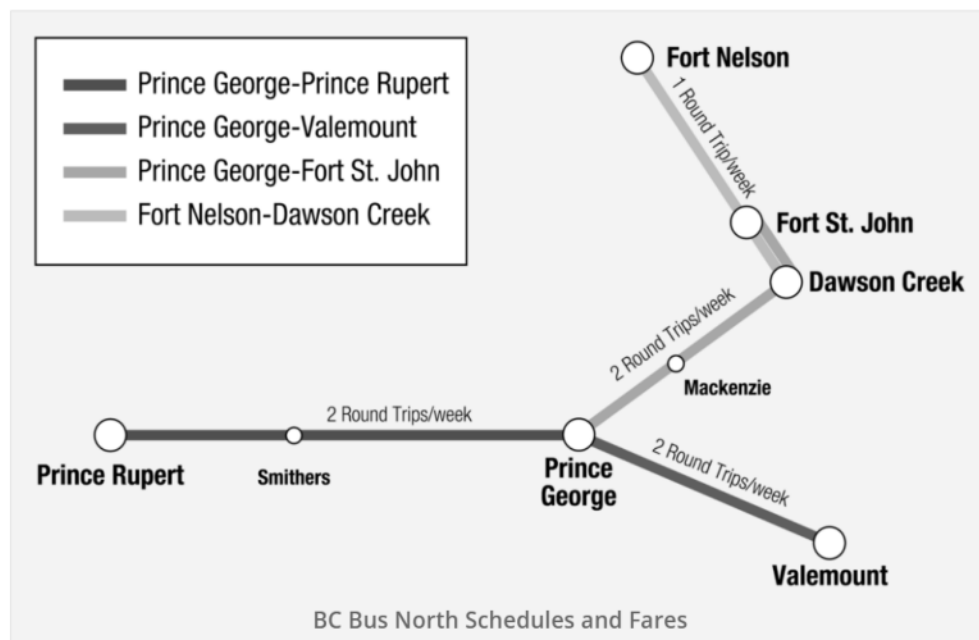
s.13; s.16; s.17

Attachments:

1. BC Bus North Routes and Ridership

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED BY:	DATE:
Linda Harmon, Director Transit Branch	Andrea Mercer, Executive Director Transit Branch	Click or tap to enter a date.

BC Bus North – Service / Routes



BC Bus North - Ridership

Route 100: Prince George – Prince Rupert (2-round trips/week)

Route 200: Valemount – Prince George (2-round trips/week)

Route 300: Prince George – Dawson Creek/Fort St. John (2-round trips/week)

Route 400: Dawson Creek – Fort Nelson (1-round trip/week)

MONTH	ROUTE 100			ROUTE 200			ROUTE 300			ROUTE 400		
	2018*	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
January		316	340		26	33		158	121		42	24
February		265	333		19	28		121	111		48	32
March		258	269		32	23		119	93		30	18
April		195	114		23	3		128	34		36	11
May		273	126		19	11		112	62		49	12
June	149	287	156	14	13	12	57	91	80	29	41	21
July	256	305	217	19	25	24	93	149	61	57	51	23
August	340	361	194	19	30	15	167	122	79	52	20	18
September	276	667	174	19	23	15	90	94	82	39	27	22
October	219	252	174	15	18	24	129	119	81	50	45	21
November	258	272	219	26	29	15	107	114	72	37	36	18
December	389	388	195	21	31	17	177	170	93	50	27	19
TOTAL	1,887	3,838	2,584	133	288	220	820	1,499	970	314	452	241



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

CLIFF XXXXX
(X-REF. #XXXXX)

Left blank intentionally – Community Transportation Grant Program BN starts next page



INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: February 25, 2021

PREPARED FOR:

ISSUE: Ongoing funding for the Community Transportation Grant Program

SUMMARY:

- s.13; s.17

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Community Transportation Grant Program (CTGP) was developed as one of the five actions in the Ministry's Highway 16 Five-Point Transportation Action Plan in response to the Highway of Tears issue. The CTGP is a geographically restricted program open to applicants whose communities rely on the Highway 16 corridor between Prince Rupert and Prince George for basic services.

An application intake was conducted in late 2016, s.13; s.17 It was up to the applicant to identify the community need and to then develop a service proposal to address that need. The goal was to support local solutions to transportation needs within the overall context of providing access to safe transportation options and reducing the perceived need for hitchhiking.

s.13; s.17



The passenger statistics provided are pre-COVID as during the pandemic these community vehicles have become essential in helping Indigenous, the elderly and others to shelter-in-place. They have been used to deliver groceries and medical supplies; transport people to medical facilities; and generally, to let people know they have help if they need it.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

s.13; s.17

PREPARED BY:

Reg Faubert, Manager
Programs and Corporate Initiatives Branch

REVIEWED BY:

Kathy Kirby, Executive Director
Transportation Policy and Legislation Branch

DATE:

Click or tap to
enter a date.

RE: FOR APPROVAL: TRAN Media Request: BC Bus North funding

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Mercer, Andrea PREM:EX, Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Sent: February 25, 2021 11:34:04 AM PST
Attachments: image002.png

Thanks Andrea.

----- Original message -----

From: "Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX"
Date: 2021-02-25 11:33 a.m. (GMT-08:00)
To: "Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX" , "Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX"
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: TRAN Media Request: BC Bus North funding
Yes, agree, am working with GCPE. I get the desire for bold statements, this one is sensitive on a number of fronts.
Andrea Mercer, CD, Env.Tech, BSc, MPA
Executive Director
Transit Branch | Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
5D – 940 Blanshard Street | Victoria BC | V8W 9T5
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/tran
Email: Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 778.974.4992 | Mobile: 250.812.5486



Where ideas work

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX
Sent: February 25, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Cc: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: TRAN Media Request: BC Bus North funding

s.13

s.13 With that lens, andrea, suggest you take another look at these and specifically the last bullet. Thank you.

----- Original message -----

From: "Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX" <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 2021-02-25 9:16 a.m. (GMT-08:00)
To: "Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX" <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: TRAN Media Request: BC Bus North funding

Hi Deborah,
Peggy/Danielle are hoping for approval this morning if possible.

Thanks

Kim

From: Kulmala, Peggy GCPE:EX <Peggy.Kulmala@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 24, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Bowness, Lianne GCPE:EX <Lianne.Bowness@gov.bc.ca>; Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: TRAN Media Request: BC Bus North funding

Hi Deborah:

Below suggested response, approved by Transit Branch.

For your approval, please.

- Greyhound's decision to eliminate service left people in the north vulnerable and stranded – especially Indigenous communities, women, seniors, children, and people with disabilities.
- Due to the unique nature of the north and the distances between communities, the B.C. Government launched BC Bus North, which provides basic level long-distance transportation between regional centres in the North.

- The BC Government is committed to improving transit options for people in northern communities through the BC Bus North program.

s.13; s.16

Peggy

Reporter

Mark Nielsen, Reporter

PG Citizen

MNielsen@pgcitizen.ca

250-562-2441 x 3838 c: 778-281-1635

Deadline Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

Reporter says: The B.C. Liberals have issued a press release calling for the NDP to immediately renew funding for BC Bus North before it expires at the end of next month.

QUESTIONS:

- Can you provide a comment?
- Will funding be renewed?

Recommendation

Background

BN Decision WD Agreement extension 24Feb2021

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Cc: Courtnall, Andrea TRAN:EX
Sent: February 25, 2021 1:04:53 PM PST

Approved, thank you, db

From: Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX
Sent: February 25, 2021 1:14:07 PM PST

Approved.

FW: s.12; s.13

From Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca, Bowman, Deborah TRAN:EX
: <Deborah.Bowman@gov.bc.ca>
To: Foster, Doug FIN:EX <Doug.Foster@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>, Kirby, Katherine TRAN:EX
<Katherine.Kirby@gov.bc.ca>, Mercer, Andrea PREM:EX
Sent: February 25, 2021 2:47:21 PM PST
s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

Thank you, db

RE: s.12; s.13

From: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX </O=BCGOVT/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A1644B293172470C85A18FF9507F14DA-PILKINGTON, KIM T>
To: Marsh, Patricia A TRAN:EX, Neate, Sara TRAN:EX
Cc: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX
Sent: February 25, 2021 3:02:27 PM PST

Fabulous, thank you Pat.

Sara, attached is the letter signed by DB and the WD Agreement extension with cliff number.

Thanks

Kim

From: Marsh, Patricia A TRAN:EX
Sent: February 25, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX ; Neate, Sara TRAN:EX
Cc: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX
Subject: FW:S.12; s.13

Hi Kim, signature line does not need to be changed.....the letter should come from Deborah. Nancy just needs to approve.

From: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 25, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>; Marsh, Patricia A TRAN:EX <Patricia.A.Marsh@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: s.12; s.13

Hi Pat and Andrea,

Just changing the subject line as it was confusing given that it was for another email with materials.

Pat, you mentioned that Nancy needs to sign off. The attached was for DB's signature. Does it need to change to Nancy instead?

Andrea, I'm getting a cliff number for the DBN. Once I hear back from Pat, I'll update the BN and signatures if necessary and send back to all for next steps.

Thanks

Kim

From: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 25, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Marsh, Patricia A TRAN:EX <Patricia.A.Marsh@gov.bc.ca>; Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX <Linda.Harmon@gov.bc.ca>; Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Neate, Sara TRAN:EX <Sara.Neate@gov.bc.ca>; Snead, Jennifer E TRAN:EX <Jennifer.Snead@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BCBN and CVGP

Hi Pat,

s.12; s.13

Happy to discuss if I am missing something?

Andrea Mercer CD, MPA, B.Sc., Env.Tech.

Executive Director, Transit Branch

BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

Mobile: 250-812-5486

----- Original message -----

From: "Marsh, Patricia A TRAN:EX" <Patricia.A.Marsh@gov.bc.ca>

Date: 2021-02-25 2:22 p.m. (GMT-08:00)

To: "Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX" <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>, "Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX" <Linda.Harmon@gov.bc.ca>, "Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX" <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: "Neate, Sara TRAN:EX" <Sara.Neate@gov.bc.ca>, "Snead, Jennifer E TRAN:EX" <Jennifer.Snead@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: BCBN and CVGP

s.12; s.13

Thanks.....Pat

From: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 25, 2021 1:43 PM
To: Harmon, Linda TRAN:EX <Linda.Harmon@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>; Marsh, Patricia A TRAN:EX <Patricia.A.Marsh@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: BCBN and CVGP
Linda –s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

Andrea Mercer, CD, Env.Tech, BSc, MPA
Executive Director
Transit Branch| Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
5D – 940 Blanshard Street | Victoria BC | V8W 9T5
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/tran
Email: Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 778.974.4992 | Mobile: 250.812.5486



From: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 25, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kirby, Katherine TRAN:EX <Katherine.Kirby@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: BCBN and CVGP

Thanks Andrea, we'll get these over to her.

FYI, s.12; s.13

and WD Agreement extension. I'll be looking at those now for

next steps.

Thanks

Kim

From: Mercer, Andrea TRAN:EX <Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 25, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX <Kim.Pilkington@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kirby, Katherine TRAN:EX <Katherine.Kirby@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BCBN and CVGP

Kim – Deborah asked for a brief summary for both the Community Vehicle Grant Program and BCBN. She wanted these this afternoon, as she is wanting to provide Doug Foster with something today.

Drafts attached. These have not been cliffed, but we can if needed.

Andrea

Andrea Mercer, CD, Env.Tech, BSc, MPA
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