



BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: February 4, 2021

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

ISSUE: Transit Policy

PURPOSE: Introductory meeting with a focus on transit policy issues facing MoveUP members at BC Transit, Coast Mountain Bus Company and TransLink.

MEETING: David Black, President, Movement of United Professionals (MoveUP) on February 9, 2021

PROPOSED KEY MESSAGES:

- Thank you for advocating for your members and sharing MoveUP's support for transit expansion and increasing access to transit.
- The Province recognizes the importance of MoveUP members to British Columbians traveling on public transit across B.C.
- We are actively supporting transit expansion to make transit more accessible, and we are working to provide free transit for children 12 and under to make life more affordable for families.

BACKGROUND:

David Black, President, MoveUP, wrote to Minister Fleming on November 26, 2020 to request a meeting to discuss implementation of government's transit commitments and to begin planning a long-term strategy for affordable, efficient and environmentally responsible public transit (see attachment).

MoveUP, formerly known as the Local 378 of the Canadian Office and Professional Employees (COPE) Union, represents approximately 12,000 public and private sector workers in western Canada. Some of their largest bargaining units are BC Transit, TransLink's Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) ICBC, BC Hydro, FortisBC, and Capilano University.

The BC Transit bargaining unit has ~153 administrative, technical and professional employees (e.g. customer relations, administrative professionals, stockroom, warehouse, IT, planning and scheduling, safety and training, fleet engineers) and a total compensation base of \$10.0 M.

TransLink has 643 members at TransLink and the Coast Mountain Bus Company. MoveUP's members work in IT, dispatch, office support and administration, security, customer service, operator training and more.

PAST INTERACTIONS:

- Parliamentary Secretary for TransLink Bowinn Ma met with David Black in February 2019.



DISCUSSION:

Transit Priorities

Requested topics for discussion include:

- Building on the Province's plans to expand transit and eliminate fares for children 12 and under to develop long-term strategies to move public transit away from a fare model altogether; and
- Working with the Province to deliver on its current strategies and to develop a plan for the next 30 years of transit policy.

Minister George Heyman and Minister Fleming's mandate letters include working with TransLink and BC Transit, respectively, to make transit free for children 12 and under. Provincial staff are currently discussing opportunities for implementation with BC Transit and TransLink.

Transit fares make up a significant portion of revenue for TransLink and BC Transit. Eliminating fares for everyone would benefit low-income individuals and lead to increased transit use; however, the Province, other levels of government and BC Transit and TransLink would have to offset the lost revenue and fund the increased demand. Despite fare revenue losses under COVID-19 and the Province's commitment to resilient transit funding, the Province expects fare revenue will continue to play a role in BC Transit and TransLink's recovery.

Under Safe Restart, the Province and the Federal government recently committed pandemic related operational funding to TransLink and BC Transit. TransLink received \$644 million and BC Transit received \$86 million in operating funding to offset projected 2020 and 2021 COVID losses and to hold fare increases to the rate of inflation of 2.3% until at least 2023. Both agencies expect a slow recovery with ridership expected to be at 60% of pre-COVID levels by the end of 2021.

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Regarding transit expansion, Ministers Fleming, Heyman and Ma have several mandate letter commitments to support expanding public transit, including:

- Continuing work on the Broadway Subway Project, with an eventual terminus at UBC;
- Ensuring prompt design and construction of the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain;
- Supporting the planning and development of key transit projects, like high-speed transit links for the North Shore and the expansion of rail up the Fraser Valley;
- Improving and expanding the transit network for people living in the Fraser Valley and Sea-to-Sky regions, including by expanding West Coast Express service;
- Ensuring that infrastructure investments deliver benefits for local communities and workers through Community Benefit Agreements where appropriate; and
- Delivering better transit and transportation for the South Island.

From: [Gates, Brittany TRAN:EX](#)
To: [Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX](#)
Cc: [Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX](#); [Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX](#); [Gednev, Vanessa R TRAN:EX](#); [Neate, Sara TRAN:EX](#); [Hitchman, Laurel TRAN:EX](#)
Subject: FOR ACTION: 297379/6726 | MRF MEETING | MoveUP | MTG Date: Feb 9
Date: January 22, 2021 3:53:00 PM
Attachments: [Briefing Note CLIFF ID 297379.msg](#)

Good afternoon, please prepare meeting materials for the following MRF meeting:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CLIFF/eApp # | 297379 6726 |
| MRF Meeting W/: | David Black, <i>President, MoveUP</i> |
| Briefing Purpose and timing: | Intorduction |
| Participants: | Kaye Krishna, Deborah Bowman |
| Date: | February 9 th @ 2:00 |
| Duration: | 30 mins |
| Materials: | IBN |
| Due to FADM: | Jan 28 th |
| Due to DMO: | Feb 2 nd |

NOTE:

- Material is required to the DMO ~~4 business days~~ before a MRF briefing/meeting
- Material is required to the DMO ~~2 business days~~ before a DM briefing/meeting
 - If material timelines are not met you risk the briefing being cancelled and/or being rescheduled
- 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

From: Gates, Brittany TRAN:EX
To: Waters, Leah TRAN:EX; Brewer, Lia SDPR:EX; Beale, William TRAN:EX
Cc: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX; Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX; Kubisheski, Carlee TRAN:EX; Pilkington, Kim TRAN:EX; Hum, Morgan TRAN:EX; Smith, Victoria TRAN:EX
Subject: MRF BRIEFING MATERIAL | CLIFF # 297783 | Integration of TransLink and BC Transit services | Date: January 18th
Date: December 30, 2020 10:30:00 AM
Attachments: 297783_2020-12-30_Bullets_MRF_TransLink and BC Transit Service Integration.pdf

Good morning the attached briefing materials have been uploaded the [WebDAV](#) for Minister Fleming's attention:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| BRIEFING: | Improve TL and BC Transit Integration (with MECCS) |
| MATERIALS: | Bullets (CLIFF # 297783) |
| DATE: | January 18 th |
| TIME: | 11:00 – 11:45am |
| LOCATION: | MS Teams |
| STAFF PARTICIPANTS: | Kaye Krishna, Deborah Bowman, David Greer, Vanessa Gedney. |

BC Transit and TransLink Service Integration

ISSUE: Integration of TransLink and BC Transit services

FACTS:

- TransLink is an independent transit authority created by the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act at arms length to government and is governed by the TransLink Board and a Mayors' Council. TransLink's funding comes from fares, property taxes, BC Hydro levies, parking taxes, regional motor fuel tax, development cost charges, advertising and merchandising. It was also the recipient of the Golden Ears Bridge toll which has been eliminated. The Province provides TransLink with funding to replace the foregone toll revenue which totalled \$122 million for the period from September 2017 through September 2019.
- TransLink's operating costs in 2019 were \$1.7 billion. Unlike BC Transit, the Province does not provide an operating grant to TransLink, but does contribute funding toward the U-PASS BC program.
- TransLink's jurisdiction is Metro Vancouver where it is responsible for transit services, major road networks, cycling paths and land-use planning. TransLink reported 272 million journeys for the year ended 2019. Adult fares range from \$2.40 (1- zone) to \$4.50 (3-zone).
- BC Transit is a Crown Corporation and provides transit services outside of Metro Vancouver in collaboration with 89 local governments. BC Transit annual operating budget is \$285 million to which the Province contributes about \$120 million.
- Local government partners contribute the balance through fare revenue, property tax, advertising revenue, and in the case of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, a regional motor fuel tax. The Local government partner share of operating costs ranges from 33.3% to 68.3% depending on the system.
- BC Transit reported 58.7 million trips for the year ended March 31, 2020. Fares are set by local government and range from \$1.75 in Williams Lake to \$5.00 (Highway 16). Most are \$2.00 - \$2.50 per one way trip).
- The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction issues BC Bus Pass to eligible residents in those communities with transit service. The BC Bus Pass is a Compass Card. It is used on BC Transit buses but only as a visual reference since BC Transit does not have technology to read the Compass Card.
- In the Fraser Valley, BC Transit and TransLink both provide service under agreements. TransLink has an agreement with the District of Mission to provide the West Coast Express and Route 701 bus service. BC Transit has an agreement with TransLink related to use of the Carvolth Exchange in Langley.
- BC Transit's Fraser Valley Express connects passengers to TransLink's Carvolth Exchange in Langley.

- TransLink operates the West Coast Express train and a bus from Mission to Coquitlam Sky Train station and Port Moody. (Mission is in BC Transit's jurisdiction.).
- Both BC Transit and TransLink provide custom transit service for those not able to take conventional transit (TransLink has HandyDart (with a capital 'H'), BC Transit has 'handyDART' (with a small 'h').
- Both TransLink and BC Transit have been the recipients of Federal/Provincial Safe Restart funding. With this funding, both agencies are expected to maintain existing service levels, and limit any fare increases to 2.3% through 2024.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

- There are opportunities to make using public transit easier by developing ways to seamlessly travel between TransLink and BC Transit services on both conventional and custom transit.
- This may include: a central platform for trip planning, merging TransLink and BC Transit schedules and stop location information; a common payment system; or altering TransLink and BC Transit's service jurisdictions.
- Integration of TransLink and BC Transit services could improve the ease of travelling between jurisdictions and make transit a more attractive travel option, help meet climate action goals and reducing congestion.
- If payment systems are integrated, it could assist in understanding usage rates of the other bus pass programs (such as the BC Bus Pass) and may help implement the Province's mandate letter commitments to offer free transit for children up to and including 12 on BC Transit and TransLink systems.
- It is proposed that the Province form a BC Transit and TransLink Working Group, with possible inclusion of BC Ferries, to determine what is involved in improving passenger mobility between the two transit services.
- It is anticipated that each area will have contractual, technical, governance, financial and potentially legislative implications.
- It is proposed that the Working Group be established in Spring 2021 with a terms of reference and project scope.

PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

Andrea Mercer, Executive Director,
Transit Branch
David Greer, Executive Lead
Integrated Transportation Development Plan
Deborah Bowman, ADM Transportation Policy and
Programs

INITIALS

AM

DG

DB

From: Volk, Kevin TRAN:EX
To: Storm, Ed TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: Office of Minister McKenna
Date: January 28, 2021 8:47:13 PM
Attachments: Signed letter - Fleming.pdf
Enclosure.pdf

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: January 28, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Volk, Kevin TRAN:EX ; Smith, Victoria TRAN:EX
Cc: Hurn, Morgan TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: Office of Minister McKenna

Good morning,

Attached is a letter from Minister McKenna advising of the approval of the West Coast Express Locomotive Refurbishment project under the Canada-British Columbia Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

We'll leave with your office for handling, but let me know if you need me to forward or share with any MO staff or Executive.

Thanks,

Aaron Shepard

Manager | Corporate Writing Services

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

5B - 940 Blanshard Street | Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

Phone: 778 974-4976

From: Minister / Ministre (INFC) <infrc.minister-ministre.infrc@canada.ca>
Sent: January 28, 2021 7:45 AM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX <Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Office of Minister McKenna

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

Please find attached correspondence from Minister McKenna.

Sincerely,

The Executive Correspondence Unit