

RE: 72 hour strike notice issued in Central Fraser Valley

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
To: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>, Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>, Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 30, 2023 4:28:01 PM PST
Thanks for this flag.

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 30, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: 72 hour strike notice issued in Central Fraser Valley

FYI - of particular interest for MSDC

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Humphries, Tessa <THumphries@BCTransit.Com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 4:12 PM
To: Brennan Clarke <brennan.clarke@gov.bc.ca>; Dave Crebo <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; John Hanson <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>; Rob Duffus <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Weiss, Jamie <JWeiss@BCTransit.Com>
Subject: 72 hour strike notice issued in Central Fraser Valley

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

Hi GCPE team,

Just a heads up that CUPE has issued 72 hour strike notice in Central Fraser Valley. They're quite clear in their release that they wouldn't go to full strike until Feb 27 and 28, but could stop collecting fares Thursday. More details below:

<https://www.cupe.bc.ca/2023/01/30/fraser-valley-transit-drivers-serve-72-hour-strike-notice-workers-seeking-equal-pay-for-equal-work/>

s.13

Messaging is below:

BC Transit is notifying its riders in the Central Fraser Valley, Chilliwack, Agassiz-Harrison and Hope transit systems that CUPE Local 561 operating under First Transit in that region has issued a 72 hour strike notice, which enables them to take job action as of 3 p.m. on Thursday, February 2.

They have indicated should a deal not be reached, job action impacting service would occur on February 27 and 28.

BC Transit is the Provincial Crown Agency responsible for the delivery of transit services outside of Greater Vancouver. We contract the services of private operating companies to deliver these transit services. These companies hire and manage their own workforces.

The labour dispute is between BC Transit's contractor – First Transit – and their unionized employees. BC Transit is closely monitoring the situation and hopes the parties will find resolution soon.

Any questions let me know.

Thanks!

Tessa

Tessa Humphries (*she/her*)

Manager, Communications

BC Transit

520 Gorge Road East, PO Box 9861, Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

250-896-4385 | thumphries@bctransit.com | bctransit.com

We acknowledge with respect that BC Transit delivers our mission on the ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples across British Columbia, and their historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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FW: 72 hour strike notice issued in Central Fraser Valley

From: Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX
To: Coulter, Dan MOTI:EX <Dan.Coulter@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 30, 2023 5:37:01 PM PST
FYI – Central Fraser Valley BCT workers issued 72 hour strike notice. CUPE release below

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 30, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Wiecezorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wiecezorek@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: 72 hour strike notice issued in Central Fraser Valley

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Cc: Weiss, Jamie <JWeiss@BCTransit.Com>
Subject: 72 hour strike notice issued in Central Fraser Valley

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Any questions let me know.

Thanks!
Tessa

Tessa Humphries (*she/her*)
Manager, Communications

BC Transit

520 Gorge Road East, PO Box 9861, Victoria, BC V8W 9T5
250-896-4385 | thumphries@bctransit.com | bctransit.com

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RE: GCPE - BC Transit communications call

From: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>, Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 8, 2023 4:42:07 PM PST
Attachments: 15022023_MA_COW_Cowichan Connector engagement_DRAFT2.docx
Hi Anna,

The objective of the Cowichan Commuter engagement:

Look at shifting one of the morning trips (5:55 am or 6:10 am) on route 66 Duncan Commuter to mid-morning (i.e. around 9:30 am) with a mid-day return (1:30pm) . The schedule changes would provide greater travel flexibility and enable more connections from Cowichan Valley to Downtown Victoria.

The CVRD has been requesting this change for at least 2 years. The service is heavily used by provincial government employees living around the Shawnigan area and shift to work-from-home has led to reduced ridership. These conversations with CVRD have been deferred out of concern that the ridership might return, but as working from home has become a permanent reality for many people, ridership has plateau'd between 9 and 12 people per trip. The first trip and last trip will not change, the engagement is looking at shifting either the second or third trip to a time in the later morning – perhaps around 9:30 am. The engagement is to adjust service design to align with existing users.

The route 66 Duncan Commuter provides weekday service between Cowichan (Duncan's Village Green Mall) and Downtown Victoria. There are four early morning trips to Downtown Victoria and four afternoon trips back to Duncan.

This engagement is the result of a number of requests from transit users as well as staff at the Cowichan Valley Regional District and their Board.

The shifting of schedule is similar to what Sonia Furstenau brought up about the Shawnigan to Downtown Victoria route:

Copyright

<https://www.cowichanvalleycitizen.com/opinion/sonia-furstenau-column-vision-for-public-transportation-on-vancouver-island/>

The timing is coincidental, although the CVRD has reached out to Sonia's office to learn of any engagement they may have received.

I have attached the media advisory for your interest.

Let me know if you have more questions,

Thank you,
John

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: GCPE - BC Transit communications call

Could I get a bit more info on the cowichan commuter engagement? May be worth adding that as a line on inter-city bus QP note.

—
Anna Lindsay-Baugh (she/her)
Director of Issues Management
778-677-4091

From: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1:33:18 PM
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Amirali, Abid TRAN:EX <Abid.Amirali@gov.bc.ca>; Bawa, Reg R TRAN:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX <Brennan.Clarke@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Dong, Jodi TRAN:EX <Jodi.Dong@gov.bc.ca>; Elwood, Keith TRAN:EX <Keith.Elwood@gov.bc.ca>; Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>; Grant, Lisa TACS:EX <Lisa.Grant@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Long, Ross A TRAN:EX <Ross.Long@gov.bc.ca>; Lum, Sharon TRAN:EX <Sharon.Lum@gov.bc.ca>; Marshall, Laura TRAN:EX <Laura.Marshall@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Moxham, Gillian TRAN:EX <Gillian.Moxham@gov.bc.ca>; Patrick, Chelsea TRAN:EX <Chelsea.Patrick@gov.bc.ca>; Walman, Bart TRAN:EX <Bart.Walman@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Witte, Julia MOTI:EX <Julia.Witte@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: GCPE - BC Transit communications call

Hi all,

Here's a summary of today's call with BC Transit communications.

- Fraser Valley Strike continues with transit staff not enforcing fare collection. Fares are still being collected, onus on customers to pay.

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s.13

Thank you,
John

John Hanson | Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Cell: 250 882 9203

Media Advisory



February 15, 2023

Share your thoughts on the Cowichan Valley Commuter

COWICHAN VALLEY – BC Transit and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) are looking for public feedback on potential schedule changes to the Cowichan Valley Commuter, route 66 Victoria/Duncan.

BC Transit is exploring moving one of the existing early morning trips to later in the morning hours and moving an afternoon trip to earlier in the afternoon to provide greater travel flexibility and enable more connections from Nanaimo and other routes in the Cowichan Valley. Current and future riders can share their thoughts and opinions in an online survey starting today until March 1, 2023.

For more information and to access the online survey, click [here](#).

Media contacts

BC Transit communications
media@bctransit.com

GCPE - BC Transit communications call

From: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>, Amirali, Abid TRAN:EX <Abid.Amirali@gov.bc.ca>, Bawa, Reg R TRAN:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX <Brennan.Clarke@gov.bc.ca>, Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>, Dong, Jodi TRAN:EX <Jodi.Dong@gov.bc.ca>, Elwood, Keith TRAN:EX <Keith.Elwood@gov.bc.ca>, Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>, Grant, Lisa TACS:EX <Lisa.Grant@gov.bc.ca>, Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Long, Ross A TRAN:EX <Ross.Long@gov.bc.ca>, Lum, Sharon TRAN:EX <Sharon.Lum@gov.bc.ca>, Marshall, Laura TRAN:EX <Laura.Marshall@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Moxham, Gillian TRAN:EX <Gillian.Moxham@gov.bc.ca>, Patrick, Chelsea ENV:EX <Chelsea.Patrick@gov.bc.ca>, Walman, Bart TRAN:EX <Bart.Walman@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Witte, Julia MOTI:EX <Julia.Witte@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 22, 2023 1:11:56 PM PST
Hi all,

Here's a summary of today's call with BC Transit communications.

s.13

Thank you,
John

John Hanson | Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Cell: 250 882 9203

FW: Final - Media Advisory - Service suspension due to labour dispute

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 24, 2023 12:52:02 PM PST
Attachments: 20230224_MA_Fraser Valley_Service suspension due to labour dispute.pdf
Pls see BCT media advisory going out in 10 mins letting folks know of transit strike action in the FV on Monday and Tuesday

From: Humphries, Tessa <THumphries@BCTransit.Com>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 12:30 PM
To: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX <Brennan.Clarke@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Weiss, Jamie <JWeiss@BCTransit.Com>
Subject: Final - Media Advisory - Service suspension due to labour dispute
Importance: High

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

Hi GCPE team,

Confirming CUPE Local 561 has issued a media advisory via news wire (link [here](#)) about strike Monday. I have attached our final Media Advisory which we will issue around 1pm (just notifying stakeholders first.

Any questions let me know!

Thanks,
Tessa

Tessa Humphries (*she/her*)
Manager, Communications
BC Transit
520 Gorge Road East, PO Box 9861, Victoria, BC V8W 9T5
250-896-4385 | thumphries@bctransit.com | bctransit.com

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February 24, 2023

Service disruption facing customers in Fraser Valley transit systems

FRASER VALLEY – BC Transit is notifying its riders that CUPE Local 561 operating under First Transit has indicated increasing job action and will cease service in the Agassiz-Harrison, Central Fraser Valley, Chilliwack and Hope transit systems as of the start of the scheduled service on February 27 to the end of service on February 28. This will impact customers in the communities of Abbotsford, Agassiz-Harrison, Chilliwack, Hope, Mission and customers using the Fraser Valley Express.

This service disruption will not impact handyDART service, which will remain fully operational in Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission.

BC Transit is closely monitoring the situation and sincerely apologizes to customers for the inconvenience caused by this matter. We understand the frustration felt by customers, and that the job action is difficult for everyone involved in the region.

BC Transit is the Provincial Crown Agency responsible for the delivery of transit services outside of Greater Vancouver. We contract the services of private operating companies to deliver these transit services. These companies hire and manage their own workforces.

The labour dispute is between BC Transit's contractor – First Transit – and their unionized employees. BC Transit will update customers as more information becomes available. We encourage customers to sign up to receive alerts at bctransit.com. Customers may also follow @BCTransit on Twitter for updates.

Media Contacts

BC Transit Communications
250-880-1303
media@bctransit.com

RE: Final - Media Advisory - Service suspension due to labour dispute

From: Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
To: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>, Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 24, 2023 1:03:05 PM PST
Thank you

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 24, 2023 12:52 PM
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Final - Media Advisory - Service suspension due to labour dispute
Importance: High

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Fwd: FV transit stirke KMs

From: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX
To: Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 26, 2023 1:02:07 PM PST

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From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2023 11:10:11 AM
To: Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FV transit stirke KMs

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This service disruption will not impact handyDART service, which will remain fully operational in Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission.
The labour dispute is between BC Transit's contractor – First Transit – and their unionized employees.

- **I am aware of the strike action approved by CUPE Local 561, and we continue to monitor it closely.**
- **Our government fully supports the collective bargaining process.**
- **We must respect the integrity of the collective bargaining process, which means allowing the two sides to negotiate freely on their own.**
- **The best outcomes result from employers and unions being seated across the table, working collectively and collaboratively towards a compromise to their bargaining disputes.**

Dave Crebo
Communications Director
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
(250) 812-5747

FV transit strike IN.

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 27, 2023 10:22:51 AM PST
Attachments: BIN - Fraser Valley Transit Strike - Feb 24 2023 DRAFT.docx
FYI – Labour’s IN. It’s a bit dated in that the bg warns of full strike action today and tomorrow, and of course that’s happening. KMs don’t change though.
They’re the lead ministry for media queries.

Thx,
DC

Dave Crebo
Communications Director
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
(250) 812-5747

ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</p> <p>Ministry of Labour Date: Feb. 24, 2023 Minister Responsible: Minister of Labour</p>	<p>Fraser Valley Transit Strike</p>
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Advice and Recommended Response:

- I am aware of the strike notice and action by First Transit workers under CUPE Local 561 in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and the surrounding region, and we continue to monitor it closely.
- Our government fully supports the collective bargaining process.
- We must respect the integrity of the collective bargaining process, which means allowing the two sides to negotiate freely on their own.
- The best outcomes result from employers and unions being seated across the table, working collectively and collaboratively towards a compromise to their bargaining disputes.

KEY FACTS:

On December 19, 2022, Fraser Valley-based First Transit bus drivers voted 98% in favour of job action. CUPE 561 members conducted the vote on December 17 and 18 after the negotiating parties reached an impasse at the negotiating table. The union asserts the employer has not satisfied their outstanding issues in wage and compensation fairness, as Fraser Valley bus drivers make 32% less than transit workers with TransLink and West Vancouver Blue Bus. Their members do not have a pension plan, and are required to accept long hours of standby time for which they receive less than \$3 per hour.

According to the union, they have been engaging with BC Transit's contracted company, First Transit, for a combined total period of about three weeks since talks began in Spring 2022.

In early February, Bus drivers in the eastern Fraser Valley and CUPE 561 members carried out job actions by not collecting fares from passengers. On February 13, 2023, CUPE 561 workers posted on Instagram account [fraservalleytransitstrike](#) asking supporters to sign a pledge form online: [weneedalift.ca](#) asking *anyone who's ever benefited from the transit system in the Fraser Valley* to pledge support of Fraser Valley transit operators.

On February 24, 2023, the transit operators warned that they would escalate their strike by withdrawing bus services on Feb. 27 and 28 if contract negotiations are not settled by that time. This will impact the communities of Abbotsford, Agassiz-Harrison, Chilliwack, Hope, Mission, and customers using the Fraser Valley Express, except BC Transit's handyDART.

BACKGROUND:

First Transit is an Ohio-based private company that operates public transit services in over 300 locations in the US, Puerto Rico, and Canada, carrying over 300 million passengers annually.

CUPE 561 represents 213 members who work for First Transit, formerly First Canada. First Transit is a private, for-profit and foreign-owned sub-contractor of BC Transit that provides transit service throughout the Fraser Valley and extending to Burnaby. The membership includes drivers, utility workers, bus washers and mechanics. Drivers operate transit buses and HandyDART.

First Transit was also the subject of a labour dispute with BC Transit services in Kelowna in September 2022. (Kelowna came to an agreement Dec. 16, 2022.) Also in September 2022, a strike of West Vancouver Blue Bus drivers and maintenance workers was averted.

In June 2022, BC Transit's contractor for Sea to Sky Corridor buses - serving Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton - resumed services after a 136-day-long, full-scale strike, making it the longest public transit strike in the history of the province.

In February 2021, a strike of SkyTrain Canada Line workers, separately operated by SNC Lavalin's ProTrans B.C. division, was also averted.

Of the 39 Transit systems being managed by the Regional Operations team, 24 operate with collective bargaining agreements (CBAs). In 2022, 16 transit systems had CBAs expire by year end. The largest systems include Victoria, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, Cowichan Valley, Central Fraser Valley.

Media Interest: The most recent strike notice was covered by Global News and CityNews. The early strike vote and notice announced in 2022 were covered by Abbotsford News and the Hope Standard (Black Press).

RE: MOTI Follow-up Media Request: Fraser Valley transit strike action

From: Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>, Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 28, 2023 10:23:00 AM PST
Okay – with Anna’s approval, I will send it out.

Thanks,

Murray Sinclair | Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Cell: 250-893-2613

For a list of our current media contact staff, please click here: [Transportation and Infrastructure | BC Gov News](#)

From: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 28, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: MOTI Follow-up Media Request: Fraser Valley transit strike action

That’s better. Thanks.

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From: Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 10:03 AM
To: Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: MOTI Follow-up Media Request: Fraser Valley transit strike action

Hi - Reworked answer for your approval please.

Reporter

Zahra Premji, Reporter

CBC

zahra.premji@cbc.ca

604-506-3872

Deadline Monday, February 27, 2023 12:00 PM

Request

The union workers told CBC they'd like to see the province take over the bus system and become part of BC Transit instead of contracting it out to First Transit or anyone else.

Is there a response to this?

Recommendation

- The provision of public transit (outside Metro Vancouver) is governed by the BC Transit Act. Under the Act, BC Transit is responsible for providing transit service in consultation with and with funding from local governments.
- The Act does not limit BC Transit in how it can provide transit services; there is flexibility for BC Transit to provide service in different ways in different communities it serves. This Act and the provisions in it have been around for over 25 years.
- In addition to communities where private operating companies provide service under contracts with BC Transit, there are several municipalities (for example Regional District of Nanaimo, City of Powell River, City of Nelson) where services are operated directly by local governments. In Victoria, conventional bus services are operated directly by BC Transit.
- We will not be commenting on service models while current negotiations are taking place.

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from February 27, 2023.

REQUEST:

Hi Murray and Robert,
Hope you're doing well.

I'm reaching out to see where the ministry is at with the BC Transit strike that's taking place in the Fraser Valley? Union members of CUPE 561 are asking for higher wages, a pension plan and better working conditions. We'd like to get comment from the minister on these demands and what is happening now that this has been going on for some time and with strike, this will not only impact union members but the community that relies on their services.

I'm looking for a zoom interview with the minister as soon as possible before 2pm otherwise statements responding to our questions please?

Thanks,
Zahra

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

The ministry is aware of the strike notice and action by First Transit workers under CUPE Local 561 in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and the surrounding region. This government fully supports the collective bargaining process. The best outcomes result from employers and unions being seated across the table, working collectively and collaboratively towards a compromise. The ministry understands that the Labour Relations Board has reached out to both parties to offer mediation services and those services will remain available to the parties anytime if they choose to use them, and encourages both parties to work out the dispute between themselves at the bargaining table.

GCPE - BC Transit communications call

From: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>, Amirali, Abid TRAN:EX <Abid.Amirali@gov.bc.ca>, Bawa, Reg R TRAN:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX <Brennan.Clarke@gov.bc.ca>, Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>, Dong, Jodi TRAN:EX <Jodi.Dong@gov.bc.ca>, Elwood, Keith TRAN:EX <Keith.Elwood@gov.bc.ca>, Gedney, Vanessa R TRAN:EX <Vanessa.Gedney@gov.bc.ca>, Grant, Lisa TACS:EX <Lisa.Grant@gov.bc.ca>, Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Long, Ross A TRAN:EX <Ross.Long@gov.bc.ca>, Lum, Sharon TRAN:EX <Sharon.Lum@gov.bc.ca>, Marshall, Laura TRAN:EX <Laura.Marshall@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Moxham, Gillian TRAN:EX <Gillian.Moxham@gov.bc.ca>, Patrick, Chelsea ENV:EX <Chelsea.Patrick@gov.bc.ca>, Walman, Bart TRAN:EX <Bart.Walman@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Witte, Julia MOTI:EX <Julia.Witte@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 8, 2023 5:27:16 PM PST
Hi all,

Here's a summary of today's call with BC Transit communications.

s.13

Thank you,
John

John Hanson | Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Cell: 250 882 9203

RE: MOTI Media Request: Fraser Valley BC Transit strike

From: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX
To: Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>, Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>, Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>, Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Wiczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wiczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 9, 2023 10:06:04 AM PST
Good by me.

From: Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 9:30 AM

To: Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX <Anna.LindsayBaugh@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Wiczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wiczorek@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: MOTI Media Request: Fraser Valley BC Transit strike

Hi - For your approval please.

Reporter

Kevin Charach, Reporter
CTV - Vancouver
kcharach@gmail.com
778-922-1351

Deadline Thursday, March 9, 2023 11:00 AM

Request

The reporter is doing a story on the BC Transit workers strike in the Fraser Valley area (Chilliwack, Hope, Abbotsford and surrounding area). His questions:

What does the Ministry of Transportation have to say to the public who are impacted by the strike action?

Why does BC Transit not negotiate directly with its workers? The union negotiates with a third party for-profit contractor instead of BC Transit. Why is the system set-up like this? What's the rationale?

Recommendation

- The provision of public transit (outside Metro Vancouver) is governed by the BC Transit Act. Under the Act, BC Transit is responsible for providing transit service in consultation with and with funding from local governments.
- The Act does not limit BC Transit in how it can provide transit services; there is flexibility for BC Transit to provide service in different ways in different communities it serves. This Act and the provisions in it have been in place for more than 25 years.
- In addition to communities where private operating companies provide service under contracts with BC Transit, there are several municipalities (for example Regional District of Nanaimo, City of Powell River, City of Nelson) where services are operated directly by local governments. In Victoria, conventional bus services are operated directly by BC Transit.

- This is a labour dispute between a contractor and the union representing its employees. We support the collective bargaining process, which means allowing the two sides to negotiate freely on their own.
- We will not be commenting on service models while current negotiations are taking place.

Background

FW: FYI - Upcoming service suspension expected in Fraser Valley

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 17, 2023 8:55:49 AM PDT
Attachments: 202303017_MA_Fraser Valley_March 20 service suspension due to labour dispute.pdf
FYI – BCT going out with FV transit strike advisory later this morning.

From: Weiss, Jamie <JWeiss@BCTransit.Com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:30 AM
To: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Hanson, John GCPE:EX <John.Hanson@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Humphries, Tessa <THumphries@BCTransit.Com>
Subject: FYI - Upcoming service suspension expected in Fraser Valley

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

Good morning GCPE,

Assuming no agreement is reached this morning, we'll be going out with the attached Media Advisory at 10am alerting customers to the indefinite service suspension effective Monday. Only essential handyDART trips will continue.

Thanks,

Jamie Weiss (he/him)
Senior Media Relations and Public Affairs Advisor
BC Transit
520 Gorge Road East, PO Box 9861, Victoria, BC V8W 9T5
(250) 882-8402 | jweiss@bctransit.com | bctransit.com

We acknowledge with respect that BC Transit delivers our mission on the ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples across British Columbia, and their historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

The information in this Email is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the named recipient. Access to this Email by anyone else is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the recipient named, please note that any use, disclosure, copying, distribution of this Email or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please inform us by returning a copy of the Email with the subject line marked "wrong address" and then deleting the Email, and any attachments and any copies of it.

March 17, 2023

Upcoming service disruption in Fraser Valley transit systems until further notice

FRASER VALLEY – BC Transit is notifying its riders that CUPE Local 561 operating under First Transit has indicated increasing job action and will again cease service in the Agassiz-Harrison, Central Fraser Valley, Chilliwack and Hope transit systems as of the start of the scheduled service on Monday, March 20. This service suspension will remain in place until further notice, and will impact customers in the communities of Abbotsford, Agassiz-Harrison, Chilliwack, Hope, Mission and customers using the Fraser Valley Express.

handyDART service for customers requiring transportation to renal dialysis, cancer treatment and multiple sclerosis appointments in Abbotsford and Mission has been deemed essential and will continue to operate during this service disruption. All other pre-booked trips will be notified of cancellation.

BC Transit is closely monitoring the situation and sincerely apologizes to customers for the inconvenience caused by this matter. We understand the frustration felt by customers, and that the job action is difficult for everyone involved in the region.

BC Transit is the Provincial Crown Agency responsible for the delivery of transit services outside of Greater Vancouver. We contract the services of private operating companies to deliver these transit services. These companies hire and manage their own workforces.

The labour dispute is between BC Transit's contractor – First Transit – and their unionized employees. BC Transit will update customers as more information becomes available. We encourage customers to sign up to receive alerts at bctransit.com. Customers may also follow @BCTransit on Twitter for updates.

Media Contacts

BC Transit Communications
250-880-1303
media@bctransit.com

FW: Weekly issues report - MOTI

From: Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX
To: Coulter, Dan MOTI:EX <Dan.Coulter@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 20, 2023 10:32:48 AM PDT
Attachments: WIR MOTI March 20 2023.docx
Weekly issues report for your perusal

From: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 20, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Rindahl, Ebony MOTI:EX <Ebony.Rindahl@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: GCPE Communications - Transportation & Infrastructure <CommT@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Weekly issues report - MOTI

Here's the WIR for this week.

Rob

Rob Duffus
Communications Manager
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
778 678-9071

WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

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WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

Proactive

Monday-Tuesday, March 20-21 – **Second tunnel boring machine reaches Mount Pleasant station.** Info bulletin, links to video.

Thursday, March 23 – Public information session – **Holt Creek Bridge replacement proposal** – Duncan – Info bulletin

WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

BC Ferries funding

On February 26, Premier Eby and Minister Fleming announced \$500 million in new funding for BC Ferries to lower fare increases. The funding comes from the surplus shown in the Second Quarter Financial Report.

s.13; s.16

Key Messages:

- We know that the affordability of the coastal ferry service is a huge concern for all ferry users in our coastal and ferry-dependent communities, especially as we all face the increased costs of inflation.
- We also know it is a critical part of our transportation system that people need to rely on as predictable and affordable.
- That's why our government is investing \$500 million in BC Ferries fare affordability.
- By making this funding available for BC Ferries, our goal is to keep annual average fare increases below 3.0% for 2024 to 2028. Final fare increases will be determined by the BC Ferries Commissioner.
- Without intervention, recent supplementary information provided by BC Ferries suggests pressure on fares could result in increases as high as 10.4% per year based on BC Ferries updated economic, operating and capital plan assumptions.
- The funding also supports BC Ferries initiatives, such as electrification of ferries to reduce GHG emissions in support of our CleanBC objectives.
- Our government recognizes the importance of reliable and affordable ferries. It is vital that people living in B.C.'s coastal communities—and all British Columbians—are well served and supported by the ferry service.

On the revised PT6 filing:

- The recently posted information provided by BC Ferries was not new to our government.
- That's why we injected \$500 million into the service - to help keep ferry fares affordable for people. Without intervention, the fare hikes required to fund BC Ferries' submission would be over 10 percent; and that is just not acceptable.
- Our government is committed to ensuring fares remain affordable. Our goal remains to keep any fare increases below 3 percent annually up to 2028. The independent BC

WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

Ferries Commissioner will consider this funding as she makes her preliminary ruling on fares in the coming weeks.

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Island Rail Corridor

On March 14 the federal government announced that it would vest the section of the corridor that includes the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation as reserve lands for the use and benefit of the First Nation. March 14 was the deadline for Ottawa to decide to approve funding for infrastructure improvements on the section of corridor. The deadline was set by the B.C. Court of Appeal following a claim by the First Nation for the return of Reserve Lands.

Minister Fleming released a statement supporting the need for a reconciliation-based approach when considering the future of the Island rail corridor, and committing \$18 million to allow for future corridor planning involving affected First Nations and regional districts.

Key Messages:

- Our government understands and supports the need for a reconciliation-based approach when considering the future of the Island Rail Corridor.
- We are committed to working with First Nations and local Governments to develop and advance a shared vision for the corridor.
- We recognize how important this corridor is and we would like to see it preserved as much as possible.
- We are committing \$18 million to allow for future corridor planning involving affected First Nations and regional districts.

WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

Broadway Subway business impacts

Since major construction began there have been some complaints and news stories about the impact of construction. The Broadway Subway project team continues to reach out to these business owners to try and address their concerns. A number of businesses have also inquired about compensation for disruption related to construction.

Key Messages:

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~

WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

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WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

Highway 5 North

There has been media interest in local government concerns about accidents on Highway 5 North. The 192-km segment between Kamloops and Avola has experienced 17 motor vehicle incidents since October 1, 2022. Of these, three have been fatal. 14 crashes involved commercial vehicles.

The most recent incident occurred March 1 involving three fatalities. Minister Fleming issued a statement the following day expressing condolences and noting that RCMP are investigating.

The mayor of Barriere has called for changes to speed limits, infrastructure improvements, and mandatory dashboard cameras on commercial vehicles. The minister met with the mayor on February 14, and the Mayors of Barriere and Clearwater on Feb 27th.

The mayor of Barriere has subsequently written to the minister calling for better enforcement of driving offences by out-of-province drivers.

Key Messages:

- Nothing is more important than the safety of people on our roads.
- My thoughts are with the family and loved ones of the victims of the recent tragic fatal accidents on Highway 5 North.
- These accidents are very concerning. Everyone deserves to get where they're going safely and get home to their families at the end of the day.
- When accidents happen, the Ministry carefully considers any recommendations that result from RCMP investigations for how safety can be improved at a given location.
- The Ministry is in the process of undertaking an engineering review to better understand the safety performance and recommend improvements.

Actions taken:

- Based on the recent incidents on the Highway 5 North corridor, the ministry has stepped up CVSE enforcement of commercial vehicles along the route.
- RCMP have also increased their presence along the corridor.
- The Ministry has also increased monitoring and auditing of the Maintenance Contractor's winter maintenance operations.
- The Ministry has taken steps to support commercial vehicle safety:
 - Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) ensures better training for new drivers entering the profession.

WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

- Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) will make sure drivers are abiding by the rules limiting how long they can be at the wheel, preventing over tired drivers on the road.

Mayor Stamer letter and meeting:

- I met with Barriere Mayor Ward Stamer on Tuesday (Feb 14th).
- We had a good discussion around how we can improve road safety in the area.
- Variable Speed limits:
 - I have asked staff to look at how this could be applied here.
 - We do have variable speed corridors elsewhere in the province.
 - Highway 5 North is a bit different in that the stretches between entry and exit roads are shorter than others, but we'll see how variable speeds might work here.
- Mandatory dash cameras:
 - I have also staff to explore this idea further.
 - Mandatory dash cams are not in force anywhere in North America, and would require legislative research.

Previous work on Highway 5 North:

- Several passing lane projects along the corridor have been completed in recent years including Vinsulla, McLure, Darfield, Camp Creek, and Chappell Creek, for a total investment of \$21 million.
- As well, smaller improvements have taken place including:
 - ongoing pavement rehabilitation along the corridor
 - the installation of roadside barrier at Percha's corner
 - a pedestrian crosswalk and island reconfiguration at Clearwater Village Road.

Winter driving:

- We do know that in all of the recent accidents the condition of the highway was within the required specifications for the maintenance contractor.
- The ministry's maintenance contractors are required to monitor and respond to changing conditions and deploy enough workers, equipment and material to get ensure the roads are maintained to specifications.
- The ministry constantly monitors contractors to ensure our high standards are being met, and our staff are out 24/7 during winter storms to ensure compliance.

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- When travelling during winter months, we urge people to plan ahead, check DriveBC and slow down when they encounter difficult conditions.
- It's critical that drivers do their part and adjust their speed to the conditions and that commercial truck drivers chain up when necessary.

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Highway 97C bus crash investigation

RCMP continue to investigate the crash of an Ebus passenger bus on the Coquihalla Connector on December 24. The crash killed four people. More than 50 people were sent to hospitals.

s.13

Key Messages:

- Our thoughts are with everyone impacted by this tragic event.
- We are grateful to the first responders and health care workers that answered the call in high numbers and cared for those injured and affected by the crash.

s.13

WEEKLY ISSUES REPORT – March 6, 2023

Fraser Valley transit strike

On December 19, 2022, Fraser Valley-based First Transit bus drivers voted 98% in favour of job action. CUPE 561 members conducted the vote on December 17 and 18 after the negotiating parties reached an impasse.

The drivers withdrew services February 27-28 and March 9-11, affecting the communities of Abbotsford, Agassiz-Harrison, Chilliwack, Hope, Mission, and customers using the Fraser Valley Express, except BC Transit's handyDART.

On Monday, March 20 the CUPE members again withdrew services with the exception of some essential HandiDart trips.

First Transit is a private, for-profit and foreign-owned sub-contractor of BC Transit that provides transit service throughout the Fraser Valley and extending to Burnaby.

The Ministry of Labour is lead responding to media requests.

Key Messages:

- I am aware of the strike action by First Transit workers under CUPE Local 561 in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and the surrounding region, and we continue to monitor it closely.
- This is a dispute between a private company and a union. Neither BC Transit nor the Province are involved in negotiations.
- Our government fully supports the collective bargaining process.
- We must respect the integrity of the collective bargaining process, which means allowing the two sides to negotiate freely on their own.
- The best outcomes result from employers and unions being seated across the table, working collectively and collaboratively towards a compromise to their bargaining disputes.

FW: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

From: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>, Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Rindahl, Ebony MOTI:EX <Ebony.Rindahl@gov.bc.ca>, Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 20, 2023 3:07:00 PM PDT
Attachments: QA_1_Fraser Valley widening.docx, KM_QA_Glover Road closure.docx
Here are our materials on this topic. We don't have a recording or transcript of Banman's appearance. **Joey**, just double confirming that MDC will do this, before we contact the station?

From: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

These are our most recent on this topic, and adding in the recent QA for Glover Road. The QA was prepared and sent to MO in advance of budget.

Craig

Craig Chambers | Sr. Public Affairs Officer
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Office: 250 387-5798 | Mobile: 250 213-3953 | E: craig.chambers@gov.bc.ca

From: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>; Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

Can you provide a copy of KMs for this while we check in on scheduling.

From: Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

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Subject: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

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Reporter

Vijay Vaibhav Saini, Host

Connect 95.1 FM

vijay@connectfm.ca

604-961-0915 c: 604-306-3700

Deadline Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:45 AM

Request

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Host: Vijay Saini

Date/ Time PST: tomorrow at 8:45 am

Duration: 10 - 12 mins

Interview Type: Call

Please let me know. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Sukhneet

Recommendation

Background

Page 42 of 65 to/à Page 48 of 65

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Fwd: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

From: Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX
To: Coulter, Dan MOTI:EX <Dan.Coulter@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 20, 2023 3:14:46 PM PDT
Attachments: Bruce Banman - March 20.mp3
Here is the recording of banman and some updated materials

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From: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:08:25 PM
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Rindahl, Ebony MOTI:EX <Ebony.Rindahl@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

Update...we do have a recording of Banman, attached.

From: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:07 PM
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Rindahl, Ebony MOTI:EX <Ebony.Rindahl@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
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Craig Chambers | Sr. Public Affairs Officer
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Office: 250 387-5798 | Mobile: 250 213-3953 | E: craig.chambers@gov.bc.ca

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Connect 95.1 FM

vijay@connectfm.ca

604-961-0915 c: 604-306-3700

Deadline Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:45 AM

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Duration: 10 - 12 mins

Interview Type: Call

Please let me know. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
Sukhneet

Recommendation

Background

RE: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

From: Rindahl, Ebony MOTI:EX
To: Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 20, 2023 3:49:00 PM PDT
Hey Joey,

I just received the prep call cal invite for this interview. I'm assuming the Interview itself is Tuesday 8:45? I wanted to be sure that the info below hasn't changed before adding.

Eb

Reporter

Vijay Vaibhav Saini, Host

Connect 95.1 FM

vijay@connectfm.ca

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Sent: March 20, 2023 3:18 PM

To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Wieczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wieczorek@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Rindahl, Ebony MOTI:EX <Ebony.Rindahl@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

Confirmed, he'll do it!

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Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>

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Please let me know. Looking forward to hearing from you.

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Sukhneet

Recommendation

Background

FV Transit Strike QP note

From: Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
To: Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>, Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>, Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>, Wiecezorek, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Wiecezorek@gov.bc.ca>, Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 27, 2023 11:05:17 AM PDT
Attachments: 2023.03.27 QP LBR FV Transit Strike.docx
Here is the most recent Labour QP note on the Fraser Valley Transit strike for your reference.

Jeff

Jeff Hannah

Director, Issues Management
250-812-5204 | jeff.hannah@gov.bc.ca

Fraser Valley Transit Strike

Highlights:

- Opposition could ask about disruption of transit service in the Fraser Valley due to job action from CUPE 561
- A full walk out started on March 20th. Service was previously disrupted on March 9th to 11th and Feb 27th to 28th
- The previous deal expired in March 2020

Main Message:

- We understand that people rely on the transit system and are frustrated with the situation.
- I know that the current disruption is having serious impacts on people
- Residents in the Fraser Valley, like people throughout the province, want reliable transit service.
- Negotiations are taking place between the operator, First Transit, and their workers – the government is not involved in these talks.
- We know the best and the most stable outcomes result from employers and workers being seated across the table, working collectively and collaboratively towards a compromise to their bargaining disputes.
- We encourage both parties to get back to the bargaining table.

If asked about government intervention:

- The best and most lasting outcomes result from employers and workers being seated across the table, working collectively and collaboratively towards a solution
- I have reached out to both parties to offer mediation services.
- They haven't requested at this time.
- Mediation services continue to be available to the parties anytime if they need further assistance.
- We encourage both parties to work out their differences at the bargaining table

Background:

First Transit is an Ohio-based private company that operates public transit services in over 300 locations in the US, Puerto Rico, and Canada, carrying over 300 million passengers annually.

CUPE 561 represents 213 members who work for First Transit, formerly First Canada. First Transit is a private, for-profit and foreign-owned sub-contractor of BC Transit that provides transit service throughout the Fraser Valley and extending to Burnaby. The membership includes drivers, utility workers, bus washers and mechanics. Drivers operate transit buses and HandyDART. HandyDART services are not affected by this job action.

First Transit was also the subject of a labour dispute with BC Transit services in Kelowna in September 2022. (Kelowna came to an agreement Dec. 16, 2022.) Also in September 2022, a strike of West Vancouver Blue Bus drivers and maintenance workers was averted. In June 2022, BC Transit's contractor for Sea to Sky Corridor buses - serving Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton - resumed services after a 136-day-long, full-scale strike, making it the longest public transit strike in the history of the province.

The union asserts the employer has not satisfied their outstanding issues in wage and compensation fairness, as Fraser Valley bus drivers make 32% less than transit workers with TransLink and West Vancouver Blue Bus. Their members do not have a pension plan, and are required to accept long hours of standby time for which they receive less than \$3 per hour.

CUPE 561 began performing job on March 20th. They have previously performed job action from March 9th to March 11th and February 27th to 28th.

FW: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

To: Coulter, Dan MOTI:EX <Dan.Coulter@gov.bc.ca>
Attachments: Bruce Banman - March 20.mp3

From: Sinclair, Murray GCPE:EX <Murray.Sinclair@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 20, 2023 4:11 PM
To: Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX <Joey.Mitchell@gov.bc.ca>; Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Sophia MOTI:EX <Sophia.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX <Ella.D.Champion@gov.bc.ca>; Crebo, David GCPE:EX <David.Crebo@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Wiczorek, Chris MOTI:EX <Chris.Wiczorek@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Chambers, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Chambers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request: Interview re Hwy 1 stretch not widened since 1962

Hi – I have it set for 8:45 tomorrow. The minister needs to call 604-561-0915 at that time.

Attached is a clip of Banman on the show.

Thanks,

Murray Sinclair | Public Affairs Officer

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Cell: 250-893-2613

For a list of our current media contact staff, please click here: [Transportation and Infrastructure | BC Gov News](#)

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Yes, MSDC will do it. He's wondering if we have a recording or transcript of Banman's appeared on the show?

J

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Recommendation

From: [Hanson, John GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX](#); [Amirali, Abid MOTI:EX](#); [Bawa, Reg R MOTI:EX](#); [Champion, Ella D MOTI:EX](#); [Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX](#); [Crebo, David GCPE:EX](#); [Dong, Jodi MOTI:EX](#); [Elwood, Keith MOTI:EX](#); [Gedney, Vanessa R MOTI:EX](#); [Grant, Lisa TACS:EX](#); [Harrison, Veronica MOTI:EX](#); [Krishna, Kaye MOTI:EX](#); [Lindsay-Baugh, Anna GCPE:EX](#); [Long, Ross A MOTI:EX](#); [Lum, Sharon MOTI:EX](#); [Marshall, Laura TRAN:EX](#); [Mitchell, Joey S MOTI:EX](#); [Moxham, Gillian MOTI:EX](#); [Patrick, Chelsea ENV:EX](#); [Walman, Bart MOTI:EX](#); [Wieczorek, Chris GCPE:EX](#); [Hannah, Jeff GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: GCPE - BC Transit communications call
Date: March 22, 2023 3:01:55 PM

Hi all,

Here's a summary of today's call with BC Transit communications.

s.13

Thank you,
John

John Hanson | Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Cell: 250 882 9203

From: Prince, Jessica PREM:EX
To: Krishna, Kaye MOTI:EX; Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX
Subject: Re: Fraser Valley transit strike
Date: March 24, 2023 6:56:17 PM

Thanks, Kaye. This is really helpful. Appreciate it.

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From: Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 5:06:05 PM
To: Prince, Jessica PREM:EX <Jessica.Prince@gov.bc.ca>; Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Fraser Valley transit strike

Thanks. Trevor is right, for once.

I'd also add that BC Transit manages the delivery of local transit services by way of a contract with First Transit, and that company is the entity that is negotiating with the union. The structure of this service delivery model makes it very arm's length from both government and BC Transit (which, btw, is a crown, but TransLink is not ^{s.13}
s.13

Right now, the two parties remain very far apart and the current perspective is that there is little government will do to shift the trajectory of the negotiations. That may change if this becomes more protracted over the coming weeks.

Also, for reference, this government has hesitated to get involved in these type of bargaining situations. There was an extended transit strike on the Sea-to-Sky last year (or so) and government was fairly hands-off, despite a lot of political pressure to directly intervene. I believe government eventually helped identify a mediator, but still remained formally not involved.

Most of the engagement and media on this is through the Labour Minister, though Minister Fleming obviously stays closely involved. I'm happy to discuss any of this further if/as needed.

Thanks,
Kaye

PS - as an FYI, in case it also becomes an issue – TransLink (via Coast Mountain Bus) is also going into their 4th week of negotiations with their union, whose contract expires on March 31st (ie next Friday). Things took a negative turn late last night so this may bubble up next week. I'm hoping both parties can find resolution by Monday or Tuesday, but we won't know until discussions evolve over the weekend.

From: Prince, Jessica PREM:EX <Jessica.Prince@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 4:35 PM

To: Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Fraser Valley transit strike

Thanks for this, Trevor. Kaye – I'm on another call but happy to receive an email update. If not, happy to chat on Monday too. No big rush here.

From: Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 24, 2023 4:31 PM

To: Prince, Jessica PREM:EX <Jessica.Prince@gov.bc.ca>; Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Fraser Valley transit strike

Minister Bains has been very active in the media on this this week. Emphasizing gov't has no plans to intervene while noting the parties have access to mediation but have to this point turned it down.^{s.13}

s.13

From: Prince, Jessica PREM:EX <Jessica.Prince@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 4:29 PM

To: Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Krishna, Kaye TRAN:EX <Kaye.Krishna@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Fraser Valley transit strike

Hi both – wondering if one or both of you have an update on this file. I've had some inquiries from downstairs.

Much appreciated and have a great weekend!

Jess

Jessica Prince (she/her)

Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Issues

Office of the Premier

Phone: 250-818-0778

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