

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT DIVISION)

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

Re: B.C. Transit Discussion Paper For A Long Range
Service Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council forward a copy of this report to Mr. Glen Leicester, Acting Vice President, Marketing and Transit Planning; B.C. Transit.

R E P O R T

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Transportation and Transit Division), at its meeting held on 1993 September 08, adopted the attached report responding to a B.C. Transit request for comments on the Long Range Service Plan - Discussion Paper.

Members:

Mr. Ernest Neumann
Mr. Peter Miller
Mr. Len Werden

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Evans
Chairman

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

Councillor C. Redman
Member

Councillor J. Young
Member

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIR. PLNG. AND BLDG.

TO: CHAIR & MEMBERS 1993 AUGUST 23
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT DIVISION)

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: BC TRANSIT DISCUSSION PAPER
FOR A LONG RANGE SERVICE PLAN

PURPOSE: To respond to a BC Transit request for comments on the Long Range Service Plan - Discussion Paper

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council be requested to forward a copy of this report to Mr. Glen Leicester, Acting Vice President, Marketing and Transit Planning; BC Transit.

R E P O R T

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At its regular meeting on 1993 July 26 Council referred to the Traffic and Transportation Committee, a copy of a report from B.C. Transit entitled "Elements of a Long Range Service Plan for the Vancouver Regional Transit System - Discussion Paper". The paper provides a basic outline for discussion purposes of a Long Range Service Plan for the VRTS. This Plan would set out a policy framework for the planning of transit services for the period for the fiscal years from 1994/95 to 1996/97. The Vancouver Regional Transit Commission has forwarded a copy of the discussion paper to each of the municipalities within the Vancouver Regional Transit System for review and comments by 1993 September 10. A copy of the discussion paper is available for review by members of the public in the Planning and Building Department.

This report provides a review of the discussion paper for the consideration of the Committee and Council.

2.0 PURPOSE OF THE LONG RANGE SERVICE PLAN

The Long Range Service Plan covers the period from fiscal years 1994/95 to 1996/97 and is to be implemented through three successive Annual Service Plans through this period. It may be questionable that a vision of the transit system for three years into the future constitutes long range perspective necessary to establish a future direction for the transit system. The GVRD Livable Region Strategic Plan and Transport 2021, which provide a planning context, adopt a much longer view up to 30 years.

Within the limited horizon of a three year Plan it is not possible to provide a framework for long range transit planning which would include system elements such as rapid transit which must be planned and implemented over a longer time frame of up to six to eight years for a single line. It is therefore suggested that the Long Range Service Plan adopt a minimum planning horizon of ten years.

3.0 RECENT TRANSIT PLANNING OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The discussion paper notes the proactive strategy to boost transit demand which was implemented during the 1987/88 to 1992/93 period. Expanded transit services to the suburbs brought about gains in the productivity of the system: ridership increased faster than service. However, results from the recently released 1992 regional travel survey indicate that while transit ridership increased by 25% during this period, private vehicle travel grew much faster resulting in a declining transit market share. Clearly while the more proactive strategy probably prevented a more precipitous decline in transit market share, it did not succeed in attracting new riders to the system in sufficient numbers. Part of the problem stems from transit's inability to capture the fastest growing segment of urban travel, namely the suburb to suburb trip, and to provide effective transit service in suburban areas which are based on a largely auto-oriented pattern of development.

4.0 FUTURE TRENDS AND ISSUES

The discussion paper provides a concise assessment of future trends and market factors affecting transit. The outlook for the future appears uncertain with the factors leading to increased ridership counter-balanced by factors leading in the opposite direction.

5.0 TRANSIT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The discussion paper notes that the Long Range Service Plan should be developed to reflect the goals and actions to be undertaken through the Livable Region Strategic Plan and Transport 2021. Transit is a key component in GVRD land use and transportation planning by supporting and benefiting from more compact growth strategy, the application of transportation demand management measures, and a transportation supply strategy emphasizing transit and carpools over private vehicles. Active pursuit of these goals is expected to increase the transit market-share over the long term but BC Transit, however, has not yet taken a position on the Transport 2021 Long Range Plan. The need

to increase the market share is compatible with BC Transit corporate goals as enunciated in the discussion paper.

6.0 DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The discussion paper provides a draft set of goals and objectives for the Vancouver Regional Transit System which have appeared in previous annual Service Plans. The goals and objectives define an appropriate end-state for the transit system which recognizes the goals of service quality, cost-effectiveness, social equity, a regional role, and public accountability.

7.0 A VISION FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICES

The discussion paper incorporates a vision for the transit system of the future: in this case, the year 1997. Considering the relatively short time horizon of the Long Range Service Plan, the vision cannot realize significant change over the status quo. Thus the vision proposes a more user-friendly system which provides a "family of transit services" to respond to the changing transit market. Specific improvements suggested could include the following:

- (i) Regional express bus services coordinated with bus priority measures and HOV lanes.**

Express bus services are compatible with the GVRD Transport 2021 Long Range Plan and are offered as an alternative to rapid transit. However, as express bus services do not provide a focus for compact growth these may not support the acceptance of a Compact Growth Strategy in Burnaby to the extent that rapid transit would.

- (ii) Improved suburb-to-suburb services.**

This would help address the largely auto-oriented travel patterns in suburban areas.

- (iii) Community services using minibuses.**

Minibuses are supported by Council for application in some neighbourhoods in Burnaby including Burnaby Heights and the South Slope.

- (iv) Premium services including express bus services to park-ride lots.**

- (v) Park-ride and bike-ride facilities.**

Expansion of these facilities support the draft Burnaby Transportation Plan goal to promote alternative modes.

- (vi) **Expanded network of transit exchanges.**
- (vii) **Employer based transportation programs**

These trip reduction programs are supported in the draft Burnaby Transportation Plan and the GVRD Transport 2021 Long Range Plan.


- (viii) **Improved information services.**

The "vision" for the transit system over the next three years proposes an ambitious program of service improvements which may not be achievable in the relatively short range time horizon to 1997. From Burnaby's perspective, it should also be noted that the "vision" does not include any reference to the role of rapid transit in shaping growth or plans for initiating the long range plan for rapid transit, for the Lougheed corridor. The exclusion of rapid transit suggests that this essential component of the future transit system is viewed as a very long term transit option.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Discussion Paper is intended to provide a focus for consultation with stakeholder groups leading to the development of Transit Service Plans for the 1994/95, 1995/96, and 1996/97 fiscal years for the Vancouver Regional Transit System. A draft 1994/95 plan is proposed to be presented to the Commission in 1993 November. This 1994/95 plan will be forwarded to the City for review and comment. A further report will be provided to the Traffic and Transportation Committee and Council at that time.

Review of the Discussion Paper from Burnaby's perspective highlights the need to consider a longer time horizon and to include consideration of the role of rapid transit as a basis to initiate a planning process with affected municipalities, including Burnaby.


for D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

