

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT DIVISION)

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

Re: Vancouver Regional Transit System:
1994/95 Annual Service Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council express its support for implementation of the transit service changes for North Burnaby and the Metrotown-Richmond express service identified in the 1994/95 Annual Service Plan for the Vancouver Regional Transit System and urge BC Transit to implement these service changes in the 1994/95 fiscal year.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mayor L. Traboulay, Chair, Vancouver Regional Transit Commission.

R E P O R T

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Transportation and Transit Division), at its meeting held on 1993 December 09, adopted the attached staff report summarizing and analyzing the 1994/95 Annual Service Plan for the Vancouver Regional Transit System.

Arising from the discussion, the Committee requested that the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission be advised that the City of Burnaby may be submitting further comment regarding the 1994/95 Annual Service Plan after evaluating the Independent Canadian Transit Union's proposed changes to North Burnaby transit services.

Respectfully submitted,

Members:

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

Councillor D. Evans
Chairman

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

Councillor C. Redman
Member

Councillor J. Young
Member

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

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(Transportation & Transit Division)

1993 DECEMBER 02

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 08.201

SUBJECT: VANCOUVER REGIONAL TRANSIT
SYSTEM: 1994/95 ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN

PURPOSE: To advise the Traffic and Transportation Committee of the 1994/95 Annual Service Plan for the Vancouver Regional Transit System.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council express its support for implementation of the transit service changes for North Burnaby and the Metrotown-Richmond express service identified in the 1994/95 Annual Service Plan for the Vancouver Regional Transit System and urge BC Transit to implement these service changes in the 1994/95 fiscal year.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mayor L. Traboulay, Chair, Vancouver Regional Transit Commission.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At its regular meeting of 1993 November 29, Council received correspondence from BC Transit with a copy of the 1994/95 Annual Service Plan for the Vancouver Regional Transit System.

The correspondence from BC Transit requests comments on the Annual Service Plan be submitted to the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission within four weeks from the date of its approval by the Commission on 1993 November 03.

Council subsequently received the Annual Service Plan and referred the report to the Traffic and Transportation Committee for review and comment. This report provides a review of the Annual Service Plan for consideration of the Committee.

2.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE TRANSIT SYSTEM

The 1994/95 Annual Service Plan bases its approach to the provision of transit service in the Vancouver Regional Transit System on the following factors:

- i) continuing funding constraints at the Provincial level.
- ii) a slow economic recovery in the Greater Vancouver area leading to weak growth in employment and thus work trips.
- ii) an increase in regional population of 2.3% in 1994 with most of this growth locating to the outer suburbs of the NE Sector, Maple Ridge, Surrey/Delta and Langley.
- iv) a continued high automobile orientation due to the movement of the baby boom population into the 34-54 age range.

Due to combined effect of these factors annual ridership on the Vancouver Regional Transit System is expected to grow by only 0.9% to 1.6% which is lower than the rate of population growth. In contrast growth in transit ridership over the past five years has exceeded population growth.

Major increases in transit ridership from 112.5 million in 1989/90 to 129 million this year have accrued from the SkyTrain extension to Scott Road, a strong economy (up to 1991) and rapid population growth. However system ridership has levelled off since 1992.

3.0 TRANSIT PROJECTS

The 1994/95 Annual Service Plan provides for an overall reduction in service of 30,000-38,000 hours over the 1993/94 level in response to Provincial funding constraints. The report notes that service improvements will therefore have to be made by reallocating service hours from underutilized routes to more productive routes. The Plan proposes to undertake seven major projects which will increase service in some areas while realizing cost savings and service efficiencies in other areas. These include:

- i) **North Burnaby Service Changes** - as approved by Council in 1993 April including new express bus services to downtown Vancouver and improved local routes between activity centres in Burnaby.
- ii) **Surrey Bus/SkyTrain Integration** - a restructuring of Surrey, Delta and Langley routes to connect with the Surrey City Centre SkyTrain stations due to open in the Spring of 1994.

- iii) **Critical Route Review Changes** - service reduction and discontinuation of least productive routes identified in the Critical Route Review. Council has communicated to the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission its objections to any changes to routes covered by the North Burnaby Transit Service Changes.
- iv) **Service Reduction Low Demand Time Periods** - restructuring and reduction of services primarily on evenings and weekends.
- v) **City Express Service on Granville Corridor** - a new express bus service on Granville between the Arthur Laing Bridge and downtown Vancouver.
- vi) **Metrotown/Richmond Centre Route** - a new peak period only bus route between Central Burnaby and Richmond Centre. This service would respond to the growing demands of Burnaby residents for better transit to the growing employment areas of Richmond.
- vii) **Allowance for Increased Running Times, Overloads and Special Events** - of particular interest to the City of Burnaby are the North Burnaby Transit Service Changes, the Critical Route Review Changes, and the new Metrotown to Richmond Centre Route. The following section outlines the implications for Burnaby of these projects.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR BURNABY

The Annual Service Plan defines those service improvements which are identified and budgeted for implementation in the 1994/95 fiscal year. In Burnaby the Annual Service Plan identifies the North Burnaby Transit Service Proposals, a Metrotown to Richmond Express Bus Service and Critical Route Review service changes. The North Burnaby Transit Service Proposals have been reviewed by the Committee and Council in some detail. Inclusion of these proposals in the Annual Service Plan provides for their implementation in the 1994/95 fiscal year.

The following discusses each of the Annual Service Plan projects applicable to Burnaby:

4.1 North Burnaby Transit Service Changes

The North Burnaby Transit Service Changes will address many longstanding transit needs for the City of Burnaby including direct express bus services on Hastings Street to downtown Vancouver and better north south local bus services between town centres and other activity centres in Burnaby. The changes proposed in the Annual Service Plan will result in substantially improved transit services for Burnaby residents with the proposed addition of 38,600 service hours at the Burnaby Transit Centre. However, as service hours at the Oakridge Transit Centre will be reduced by 34,600 the North Burnaby Transit Service change will add only 4,000 hours system wide.

4.2 Critical Route Review Changes


The proposed reduction to least productive routes identified in the Critical Route Review is expected to result in a reduction of 13,250 to 21,650 hours of service region wide. The precise number of service hours reduced in Burnaby is not available at this time but Council has indicated that any reduction in service prior to the introduction of the North Burnaby Transit Service Changes is not acceptable to the City.

4.2 New Metrotown - Richmond Centre Route

The proposed Metrotown to Richmond Centre route will complement the provision of direct service to downtown Vancouver by providing direct peak hour service from Metrotown to Richmond. Implementation of this route will require an increase of 2,800 service hours.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The 1994/95 Draft Annual Service Plan identifies service changes which will substantially improve transit services and generate increased transit ridership in Burnaby. The new North Burnaby express and local bus services and the Metrotown to Richmond Centre express bus service will address longstanding transit needs in the City of Burnaby. Implementation of these projects will significantly increase transit service in Burnaby during a period of financial restraint. Past experience with BC Transit proposals however has been characterized by an inability to deliver on transit service improvements in the City of Burnaby. In this regard staff would recommend that the Committee communicate to BC Transit its support for the services changes in North Burnaby and between Metrotown and Richmond Centre and its expectation that BC Transit focus on implementation of these service improvements in the 1994/95 fiscal year.


for D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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