

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT DIVISION)

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**1997/98 VANCOUVER REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION CONCEPT
PLAN FOR TRANSIT**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council forward a copy of this report to Mr. B. Lambert, Director, Customer Support, B.C. Transit.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Transportation and Transit Division), at its meeting held on 1997 October 08, adopted the attached report advising of the 1998/99 Concept Plan for Transit Services.

The Committee in reviewing the report agreed to amend the report to include the First Avenue bus route as an service improvement proposal from Burnaby.

MEMBERS:

Ms. L. Boivin
Mr. R. Lupien
Mr. W.B. Roxburgh
Ms. L. Tatangelo

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor E. Evans
Chair

Councillor J. Young
Vic Chair

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.

Councillor N. Volkow
Member

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

1997 OCTOBER 01

OUR FILE: 08.211

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

SUBJECT: 1997/98 VANCOUVER REGIONAL TRANSIT
COMMISSION CONCEPT PLAN FOR TRANSIT

PURPOSE: To advise the Traffic and Transportation Committee of the 1998/99 Concept Plan for Transit Services.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Traffic and Transportation Committee forward a copy of this report to Mr. B. Lambert, Director, Customer Support, BC Transit.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

BC Transit has forwarded a copy of the 1998/99 Concept Plan for transit services in the Vancouver Regional Transit System to staff for review and comment. The Concept Plan outlines the general concepts and directions to be followed in developing the detailed draft Annual Service Plan which will be considered by the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission in 1997 November.

This process involves distribution of the conceptual document to municipalities followed by meetings with municipal staff to discuss specific service initiatives. Subsequently the detailed Annual Service Plan will be presented to the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission for approval in 1997 December. This process allows municipalities more latitude to become involved in the creation of the Annual Service Plan.

The intent of this report is to provide the Concept Plan for review by the Traffic and Transportation Committee along with specific transit initiatives developed by staff to be discussed with BC Transit.

2.0 OVERALL CONCEPT

The 1998/99 Concept Plan is the second year of implementation of the service improvements proposed in the TransAction 2002 Five Year Plan and Funding Strategy which appears elsewhere on this agenda. The Five Year Plan represents a shift in the policy direction from previous Annual Service Plans which expanded services to suburban areas to directing the majority of transit resources to the Growth Concentration Area (GCA) as defined in the Livable Region Strategic Plan. As a central municipality in the GCA, the City of Burnaby stands to benefit significantly from this new approach.

3.0 OUTLOOK FOR THE TRANSIT SYSTEM

The Annual Service Plan estimates that the ridership on the Vancouver Regional Transit System in the fiscal year 1998/99 will grow by 1.5%. This level of ridership growth is based on the following factors:

- continuing growth in population; employment and economic activity in the Vancouver Region
- increased ridership in the off-peak period through tourism growth and the staggering of work hours
- the introduction of new, innovative transit services such as the B-Line that attract previously untapped markets

4.0 STATUS OF THE 1997/98 PLAN

The 1997/98 Annual Service Plan proposed the following service improvements in Burnaby of which the first two were implemented:

(i) 99 B-Line Express Bus Service

B-Line service from Lougheed Mall to UBC via Lougheed/Broadway corridor was introduced in 1996 September. Since that time service frequencies on the route have been steadily increased to cope with growing demand.

(ii) North Burnaby Transit Service Improvements

The North Burnaby Transit Services constituted the most significant revision to transit services in Burnaby since the opening of SkyTrain. New express bus routes on Hastings and improved local bus services between major destinations were developed.

(iii) Metrotown/Richmond Express Bus Route

The provision of an express bus route between Metrotown and Richmond Center has been incorporated in the Annual Service Plan since 1994/95. As a connector route between town centers, this service is an example of the suburb to suburb express bus connections envisioned in TransAction 2002. Implementation of this service, however, has again been deferred.

5.0 1998/99 CONCEPT PLAN SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS IN BURNABY

In discussions with BC Transit, City staff will be emphasizing the need to implement service improvements already proposed in previous Annual Service Plans. Service improvements proposed in the 1998/99 Concept Plan for Burnaby include the following:

(i) Improved Regional Connectors

Previous Annual Service Plans have proposed a regional connector service between Metrotown and Richmond Town Centre. The 1998/99 Concept Plan, however, contains no reference to this service.

(ii) Post - Secondary School Service Enhancements

As post-secondary institutions are facing increasing problems in coping with traffic and parking, improvements to transit services are needed. BC Transit and City staff have discussed possible transit service enhancements with BCIT in conjunction with measures to reduce automobile commuting to the campus.

(iii) Local Area Reviews

Local Area Reviews of service are undertaken by BC Transit to respond to significant changes in a community. A Local Area Review of the South Burnaby area has been advocated by the City for some years and was approved by the Commission in 1993. This review, however, has not proceeded.

(iv) Articulated Buses

BC Transit is scheduled to receive 21 articulated low floor buses for use on high travel corridors including the 99 B-Line, Highway 99 and the Barnet/Hastings Corridor.

(v) Handicapped Accessible Buses

BC Transit will be acquiring a number of low floor handicapped accessible buses which will permit expansion of handicapped accessible routes in Burnaby.

6.0 BURNABY SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS FROM BURNABY

In responding to the 1998/99 Concept Plan proposals, BC Transit is requesting suggestions from the City of Burnaby for specific transit service initiatives by 1997 October 7. This will give adequate time to evaluate all municipal proposals for incorporation into the 1998/99 Annual Service Plan. Based on the discussion in the previous section, the following service initiatives will be discussed with BC Transit staff:

(i) South Burnaby Local Area Review

This long overdue review is necessary to respond to concerns raised by the local neighbourhood with regard to the inconvenience of transit for trips within the South Burnaby area.

(ii) Metrotown-Richmond Centre Connector Service

Improved connections between town centres in the Greater Vancouver Region are needed to better accommodate the rapidly growing market segment of suburb to suburb trips.

(iii) BCIT Transit Services

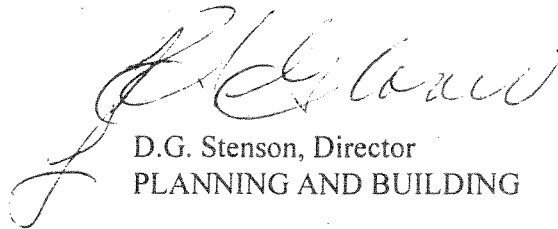
Substantial opportunities exist to reduce the volume of private vehicle trips to major educational institutions in Burnaby, especially BCIT. It is proposed a process be developed with BC Transit and BCIT with the objective of enhancing transit service while discouraging private vehicle use.

(iv) First Avenue Bus Route

A new local bus route on First Avenue would provide direct access for Burnaby residents to a variety of destinations in a broad corridor extending into Vancouver between Broadway and Hastings currently not well served by east-west transit. The First Avenue route would extend from Brentwood via Lougheed Highway, Gilmore, Henning Drive, Boundary, First Avenue to Main Street Station connecting activity centres at Brentwood, Bridge Business Park, Renfrew, Commercial Drive, Terminal Avenue office developments and the Science Centre/City Square area.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Vancouver Regional Transit Commission has distributed a 1998/99 Concept Plan for discussion with the municipalities. The process of municipal review of the Concept Plan will involve staff meetings with BC Transit to identify the service improvements in each municipality to be incorporated in the detailed Annual Service Plan and considered by the Vancouver Regional Transit Commission in 1997 December. At this time, the Concept Plan is being brought forward for consideration by the Traffic and Transportation Committee to define the content of the Plan and service initiatives which will be discussed with BC Transit staff.



D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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cc: City Manager