

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: COAST MOUNTAIN BUS COMPANY: 2007 ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information.

REPORT

The Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on 2007 June 13, received and adopted the *attached* report advising of the service improvements outlined in the Coast Mountain Bus Company 2007 Annual Service Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor N. Volkow
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Vice Chair

Councillor L. Rankin
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Engineering Director Planning & Building
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: 2007 June 06

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

FILE: PL 90100 - 03
Reference: Bus Routes

SUBJECT: COAST MOUNTAIN BUS COMPANY: 2007 ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN

PURPOSE: To advise the Transportation Committee of the service improvements outlined in the Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) 2007 Annual Service Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC), the operating company for conventional bus, Community Shuttle and Seabus services in the Greater Vancouver Region, has forwarded to Burnaby staff a copy of their 2007 Annual Service Plan (ASP). The Service Plan has been approved by the CMBC Board and outlines the service changes to be implemented by CMBC in 2007 to Conventional Bus, Community Shuttle and SeaBus services to address service needs and operational requirements.

This report summarizes the service improvements in the 2007 CMBC Service Plan and the specific service changes proposed for Burnaby.

2.0 2007 CMBC ASP SERVICE CHANGES

System-wide, the 2007 CMBC Annual Service Plan will result in the addition of 133,700 hours of Conventional Bus and SeaBus service and 38,750 hours of Community Shuttle service.

The following major categories of projects are highlighted in the 2007 Annual Service Plan:

2.1 U Pass Services

Introduced in 2003, the Universal Transit Pass or U Pass provides a monthly transit pass to all university students attending SFU and UBC. To meet the increased demand for transit to and from these universities, TransLink and CMBC have been rapidly growing the transit service to these universities. In 2007, an additional 9,000 annual service hours and 6 additional peak period conventional buses will be provided.

Approximately 25-30% of the total U Pass annual service hours in the ASP will be directed to SFU bus services including the #135 operating between Production Way/University Station and SFU and the #145 providing service from SFU to downtown Vancouver.

2.2 Busy Routes

As transit ridership has increased across the Lower Mainland, additional service is required to keep pace with demand on busy urban and suburban corridors. For 2007, additional service is proposed for conventional bus routes in Coquitlam and New Westminster connecting with the Coquitlam, Braid and 22nd Street SkyTrain stations as well as services on Lonsdale Avenue connecting to Seabus in North Vancouver.

“Busy routes” is the second largest category of service improvements with a total of 38,300 annual service hours and 10 conventional buses allocated. Approximately 21,000 of these annual service hours are to be allocated on an as-needed basis.

There are no routes in Burnaby identified for improvements under this category.

2.3 Cost Efficiency and Service Streamlining

This program is intended to reduce duplication, modify service levels to increase productivity and free up resources for use where they are needed elsewhere. This year, cost efficiencies are proposed for “Special Service Days”. These include services operated during Christmas/New Years, a period when CMBC currently operates the same service levels as at other times of the year, but transit ridership is lower due to school holidays and vacations.

Cost efficiencies for 2007 are expected to save 2,500 annual service hours.

2.4 Regional Connectors

These services provide direct, no-transfer links between major town centres in the region. The 2007 Plan proposes adding 24,600 hours and 2 additional conventional buses for regional connector service, primarily in Surrey, Langley and Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows. Annual service hours may also be employed to provide off-peak period service on a number of other regional connector routes.

In Burnaby, the #430 operating between Metrotown Centre and Richmond is an example of a Regional Connector service but this service is not proposed for improvement in the 2007 ASP.

2.5 Community Shuttles

Smaller buses were first introduced in Burnaby Heights in 2001 and, in subsequent years, were expanded to the rest of the Lower Mainland. The emphasis in 2007 will be on introducing cost efficiencies to Community Shuttle service. This process requires converting conventional bus services which are under utilized to Community Shuttle services and, in some cases, converting existing overcrowded Community Shuttle services to conventional bus services.

Overall, however, Community Shuttle services will be expanded by a net 27,637 annual service hours (including project reserve) requiring an additional 8 vehicles. Most of this additional service will be added on Northeast Sector routes with some annual service hours added to other routes to improve schedule reliability.

As schedule reliability was an issue in 2006 on Community Shuttle routes operating on the South Slope, some of these resources may be allocated to routes in this area of Burnaby.

2.6 Special Projects

A special allocation of 52,500 annual service hours and 20 vehicles is being made in the 2007 ASP for initial service improvements that will arise out of the South of the Fraser Area Transit Plan to be completed this year and implemented in 2008.

This is the largest single category of annual service hours in the 2007 Annual Service Plan.

2.7 Seasonal Variations

A special allocation of resources to accommodate seasonal variations in ridership has been provided in the 2007 ASP. This category accounts for variations during the spring and summer months with more tourist riders and fewer students. The

Plan is not specific about the number of service hours allocated to accommodate seasonal variations or where these resources will be allocated.

2.8 SeaBus Service

Beginning January 1, 2007, Seabus service was improved on Saturday nights to match service provided on weekdays. Weekday evening service was also extended to allow connections to the last SkyTrain at Waterfront Station at 1:16 am. These frequency improvements required an additional 2,500 hours of service.

2.9 Other

This category includes additional annual hours of conventional bus service to accommodate increased late night sailings of the SeaBus and additional service provided to allow equipping of some of the trolley buses to be wheelchair accessible and bike accessible (bike racks).

The Annual Service Plan is not specific about the number of service hours allocated to in this category or where these resources will be allocated.

2.10 Contingencies

Bus services will also be affected by infrastructure projects like the Canada Line, the opening of the Vancouver Transit Centre, delivery of the new trolley fleet and other projects that may require changes in service. An additional 9,000 annual service hours and 26 vehicles are allocated to conventional bus contingency and an additional 11,113 annual service hours and 1 vehicle to Community Shuttle contingency.

3.0 PROPOSED 2008 ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN IMPROVEMENTS

Next year will be the first year of implementation of a new TransLink Three Year Transportation Plan to replace the 2005-2007 Plan. In 2008, the service improvements identified in the South Fraser Area Transit Plan will be implemented and new Area transit plans for the North Shore and Richmond will be completed.

The 2007 Annual Service Plan also identifies proposed service improvements which may be considered for the 2008 CMBC Annual Service Plan. In Burnaby these include further upgrading of the existing #135 operating on Hastings between SFU and downtown Vancouver to a full B-Line service and increased service frequency on other SFU routes, specifically the #145 Production Way/University Station/SFU. However, service improvements for 2008 must be approved by TransLink in consultation with municipal staff in the context of the TransLink Three Year Plan for 2008-2010.

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From: Director Planning & Building
Re: Coast Mountain Bus Company: 2007 Annual Service Plan
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4.0 CONCLUSION

The 2007 CMBC Annual Service Plan outlines the changes to Conventional Bus, Community Shuttle and Seabus services planned for 2007 to address service needs and operational requirements. The financial, vehicle and staff resources for the 2007 ASP were provided for in the TransLink Three Year Plan 2005 - 2007. CMBC is hiring and training new staff and will be taking delivery of new trolley and diesel buses for deployment throughout the system. System-wide, the ASP will result in the addition of 133,700 annual service hours and 63 vehicles for application on U Pass services, busy routes, regional connectors, Area Transit Plan services and to address cost efficiencies, infrastructure changes and seasonal variations in service. Community Shuttle services are also being improved with the addition of 38,750 annual service hours and 9 vehicles.

Service improvements for 2007 in the City of Burnaby emphasize additional service to SFU to support the U Pass Program and could involve improvements to Community Shuttle routes in the South Slope.


B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

RG: jc/sla

Copied to: City Manager
Director Engineering

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