
MEETING TYPE: Regular Council Meeting
MEETING DATE: June 4, 2024
AUTHOR: Matthew Salmon, Director of Engineering and Environmental Services
DEPARTMENT: Engineering and Environmental Services
ITEM TITLE: 2024-2025 BC Transit Annual Operating Agreement
DESCRIPTION: To authorize execution of the Annual Operating Agreement for BC Transit service

PURPOSE

An Annual Operating Agreement, between the District of Lake Country and BC Transit, is required to be authorized to continue the current level of transit service in Lake Country.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2024-2025 Annual Operating Agreement between the District of Lake Country and BC Transit, for transit service, for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 be authorized.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BC Transit has provided the Annual Operating Agreement (AOA), for the term of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, to staff, in early May 2024. The District is required to execute and return the Agreement to BC Transit by June 30, 2024.

Provisions in the AOA establish the term, as well as costs, fares, and service levels of the BC Transit service within Lake Country, namely routes 23 and 32. The route 90 service between Vernon and UBCO, with stops in Lake Country, is operated through a separate agreement between BC Transit and the Regional District of North Okanagan. The HandyDART services, available to Lake Country customers, is operated through a separate agreement between BC Transit and the City of Kelowna. Over the term of the 2024-2025 AOA, staff will work closely with BC Transit to monitor the services and gauge opportunities for improvements, and as a valuable barometer for initiatives related to the District's ongoing transit study. Until the District's Integrated Transit Study is complete and the implementation plan created, the District is not in a position to ascertain whether there are any alternative options to provide transit services. Therefore, the continued use of the shared service model with BC Transit is considered essential in order that the residents of Lake Country have access to public transit.

In their AOA covering letter, BC Transit notes that in the fall of 2023, ridership had made a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels. Relieved of the recovery efforts, BC Transit is focusing on a number of innovations and investments going forward. These include the recently implemented Umo electronic fare system, a technology driven on-demand service in Kelowna and integration of battery powered buses. Capital infrastructure improvements are being established and an updated Strategic Plan in 2024 will guide priorities in an evolving environment.

The Annual Operating Agreement 2024-2025 outlines a net cost to the District of \$160,162.00 for the District's 6.34% share of regional costs for the Kelowna Conventional Transit Service – route 23. The net cost to the District for Community Transit Service – route 32, is \$896,041.00 reflecting 5.44% share of regional costs.

The total net cost of \$1,056,203.00 is within the approved budget and authorizing the 2024-2025 Annual Operating Agreement ensures continuity of the current transit services.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Terms in the 2024-2025 Annual Operating Agreement are materially consistent with the prior year operating agreement.

IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES AND STAFF CAPACITY (if applicable)

Monitoring of the transit operations and the services provided through the AOA is managed within existing staff resources.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None Budget Previously Approved Other (see below)

The District's Transit Reserve, created in 2021, provides a mechanism to accommodate unexpected fluctuations in the costs for transit services. Stability of the services and costs, post-pandemic, have complemented the objective of the reserve, and costs for the 2024-2025 AOA are included in the 2024 Financial Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS (if applicable)

Communications regarding transit services are typically issued by BC Transit. Additionally, the District's communications team supports efforts to ensure transit users, and the travelling public, are aware of services available or any disruption to service.

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Create and Support Opportunities for a Healthy, Active and Inclusive Community
- Create Infrastructure That Meets Community Needs
- Encourage Growth of the Downtown Core
- Ensure Sustainable Water Service Delivery for the Community
- Explore Opportunities to Engage With Regional Local Governments for the Betterment of the Community
- Honour Reconciliation by Strengthening Relationships and Inclusiveness With Our Indigenous Partners
- Identify and support improvements to the Development Process
- Implement the Agricultural Plan
- Preserve, Protect and Enhance Our Natural Environment
- Secure long term wastewater service delivery for our community
- Support Opportunities to Diversify Lake Country's Tax Base

ALIGNMENT WITH MASTER PLANS

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Official Community Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Action Charter | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2019 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Needs Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Sewer System Map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid Waste Management Plan Stage 1/2 Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit Future Plan-Central Okanagan Region-DRAFT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> McCoubrey Plateau Area Structure Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation for Tomorrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobility Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Master Plan |

OPTIONS

- A. THAT the 2024-2025 Annual Operating Agreement between the District of Lake Country and BC Transit, for transit service, for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 be authorized.
- B. THAT the 2024-2025 Annual Operating Agreement between the District of Lake Country and BC Transit, for transit service, for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, not be authorized;
AND THAT Council provide specific direction to staff regarding desired amendments to the 2024-2025 Annual Operating Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Salmon, Director of Engineering and Environmental Services

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	BC Transit Annual Operating Agreement 2024-2025.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 2024-2025 AOA Cover Letter Lake Country.pdf - Attachment 2 2024-2025 AOA Lake Country.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 27, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - May 24, 2024 - 11:05 AM

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - May 27, 2024 - 8:17 AM