
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 2005
FILE: 8500-07
TO: City Manager
FROM: Transportation Manager
RE: **Transit Service Expansion**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve a service expansion for public transit beginning in 2006 as per the report of the Transportation Manager dated November 21, 2005.

BACKGROUND:

The City has been working with BC Transit to identify solutions to address problems of transit schedule reliability. Traffic congestion and increasing transit passenger demand is undermining schedule reliability. Buses are consistently running late. This creates an inconvenience for existing passengers and discourages new customers.

An expansion is therefore proposed that addresses the highest priority reliability issues and provides contingency for expected higher passenger loads and road construction. It includes:

- Additional schedule maintenance hours in the weekday afternoon peak for the 10 North Rutland and the 9 Central Rutland. Since each bus on the road operates multiple routes around the region on a given day, addressing the issues on these two routes will improve reliability throughout the system.
- Four direct extensions per weekday between Rutland and UBC-O
- 120 extra service hours per month for construction and passenger load contingency; to be used only as needed.

The total additional cost of this service for 2006 would be \$337,000 with an additional 4300 service hours. The additional revenue projected with the improved service is \$112,000. So the net cost (total cost minus revenue) would be **\$225,000**. As the Province has not committed any new funding for service improvements, this increased net cost would need to be picked up by the City. The City's 2005 budget documents had forecast an increased transit funding for 2006 of **\$158,190.00**.

The Regional Transportation Committee supported a number of transit service expansions at their October 20th, 2005 meeting. These included:

- Further expansion to the service improvement noted above to include earlier service on Saturdays to UBC-O, an additional late night trip from Downtown Kelowna to UBC-O and improved Sunday service.

- Improved service to Black Mountain.
- New service to Crawford Estates and South Mission/Okaview.
- Increased handyDART service.

These potential service expansions will be brought forward for Council's consideration during the Provisional Budget review. However, at this time there is no commitment from the Province to fund their traditional share.

Ron Westlake, P.Eng.
Transportation Manager

Approved for inclusion



John Vos
Director of Works & Utilities

RW/ms

cc. Financial Planning Manager