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June 5, 2023

File: 1715-01

Mr. Jason Lum
Chair of the Board, Fraser Valley Regional District
45950 Cheam Avenue
Chilliwack, BC V2P 1N6

Dear Mr. Lum: *Jason,*

Re: Addition of HandyDART to the Agassiz-Harrison Transit System

On behalf of the District of Kent, I am writing to request the consideration of adding HandyDART service to the Agassiz-Harrison Transit System. We firmly believe that this addition will significantly enhance the transportation options available to individuals with disabilities and mobility challenges in our shared communities.

We commend the Fraser Valley Regional District for its continuous efforts in improving the accessibility and inclusivity of public transportation across our region. The existing Agassiz-Harrison Transit System has been instrumental in connecting residents, supporting sustainable transportation, and promoting community engagement. However, we have recognized the absence of HandyDART services within this system.

HandyDART service is an essential lifeline for individuals with disabilities or limited mobility, enabling them to maintain their independence, access crucial services, and actively participate in various aspects of community life. The inclusion of HandyDART within the Agassiz-Harrison Transit System would ensure that all members of our community, regardless of their physical abilities, have equal access to reliable and accessible transportation services.

Furthermore, we believe that cost sharing among all participants in the transit service is a fair and equitable approach. By pooling resources and distributing the financial responsibility, we can alleviate the burden on individual municipalities and establish a sustainable funding model for the provision of HandyDART service. This collaborative effort would contribute to the overall development and prosperity of Chilliwack, Popkum/Bridal Falls, Kent and Harrison Hot Springs.

We kindly request the Board's consideration of conducting a feasibility study to assess the potential for integrating HandyDART service within the Agassiz-Harrison Transit

System. Through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and consultation with relevant stakeholders, we can ensure that the implementation of this service aligns with the unique needs and requirements of all our communities.

The District of Kent is committed to supporting this endeavor and is prepared to contribute our time and resources. We eagerly offer our participation in community consultations, focus groups, and any other advocacy initiatives that arise during this process. Together, we can build an inclusive, accessible, and equitable transportation system that benefits all residents of the Agassiz-Harrison Transit System service area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We sincerely hope for a positive response and remain optimistic that the Fraser Valley Regional District Board will consider our request favorably.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sylvia', written in dark ink.

Sylvia Pranger
Mayor

c: Jennifer Kinneman, Fraser Valley Regional District CAO
Wallace Mah, District of Kent CAO
Mike Veenbaas, District of Kent CFO