

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2025-02-13

From: Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy CFO

Subject: Sub-Regional Transit Service Area Establishment Bylaw Amendment - Requisition Increase 2025

Reviewed by: Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services / CFO

Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board rescind third reading given to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Sub-Regional Transit Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1757, 2024*,

AND THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give a new third reading and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Sub-Regional Transit Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1757, 2024*, as amended.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Financial Planning process, the FVRD will set tax requisition levels through the Financial Planning Bylaw for 5-year increments (confirmed and approved annually). As required by the Local Government Act (LGA), the FVRD is also required to adopt Service Area Establishing Bylaws, setting the maximum allowable requisition for each Service Area, with some exceptions. Periodically, Staff complete a review of the Financial Plan (the Plan), to ensure it does not exceed the maximum requisition stated in the Establishing Bylaw.

The Sub-Regional Transit Service Area was established in 2012 to provide transit services in a portion of the FVRD. This Service Area is partially funded by the Village of Harrison, District of Kent, City of Chilliwack, and Electoral Area D. The bylaw currently in place allows for a maximum annual tax requisition of \$312,500.

Most recently in 2024, the Establishing bylaw was amended to increase the maximum annual tax requisition due to the increased cost in the annual operating agreement and to update the maximum calculation method to use a property value tax rate. However, this was not yet adopted because of an administrative error and is now being revised using the most up to date assessment data (2025 Completed Roll).

DISCUSSION

Staff are proposing revisions to the previously presented bylaw, updating the maximum taxation levels based on the 2025 – 2029 Financial Plan and using the 2025 Completed Assessment Roll data.

There has been no change to the allocations that each Municipality or Electoral Area contribute to the maximum value; however, the previous maximum value has been updated to a property tax value rate of 0.02000/\$1,000 or \$754,120 whichever is greater, allowing for growth within the service area.

The Sub-Regional Transit Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1757, 2025 is attached to this report for review and includes the amended maximum. This bylaw will require municipal consent and Inspector approval prior to final adoption.

COST

This bylaw change is administrative in nature and sets the maximum limit to taxation, as per the requirements in legislation. Annual taxation is based upon the annually approved Financial Plan.

The 2025 – 2029 Financial Plan for this service area requires an increase of approximately \$48k total requisition compared to 2024 which is approximately \$22k above the current maximum requisition amount.

CONCLUSION

As a step in the financial planning process, the Sub-Regional Transit Service Area bylaw is proposed to be amended, increasing the maximum requisition and updating the calculation to include a property value tax rate.