

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2018-09-05

From: Melissa Geddert, Planning Technician

File No: 8330-02-28111

**Subject: FVRD Regional Transit Expansion – Feasibility Study for Service between Mission and Kent**

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### INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Regional and Corporate Services Committee and Electoral Area Services Committee of information pertaining to the feasibility study currently being undertaken by BC Transit for the expansion of transit service between Mission and Kent. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

### PRIORITIES

Priority #2 Air & Water Quality

### BACKGROUND

*Chilliwack Area Transit Future Plan* and *Abbotsford-Mission Transit Future Plan*, adopted in 2013 by the respective communities and Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), recommends a feasibility study of potential service along the Highway 7 corridor between District of Kent and District of Mission. In accordance with the *Transit Future Action Plans*, BC Transit has initiated the beginning stages of a high level feasibility study.

### DISCUSSION

The FVRD has requested a feasibility study to determine service options between the District of Mission and District of Kent on the north side of the Fraser River. BC Transit has initiated the study and has developed a two phase approach.

Phase one is a high level assessment of ridership demand, service options, cost estimates and required resources.

Phase two of the study will include First Nations engagement, local government engagement, and public engagement; and will provide a proposed schedule, a greater detailed cost analysis, a possible cost sharing strategy, detailed infrastructure requirements, and local government approval if necessary.

The Regional and Corporate Services Committee, Electoral Area Service Committee and FVRD Board will be provided regular updates throughout the project.

The objectives of the Mission-Kent Feasibility Study serve to define the expected role of transit in the study area in terms of service levels. The study will identify transit demand based on demographic data and existing transit services and will develop transit service options and associated costs.

The proposed 51 km route will travel between the District of Mission and the District of Kent Kent(Agassiz) along Highway 7 on the north side of the Fraser River. The route will pass through or near several First Nations communities and communities within Electoral Areas "C" and "G". Community engagement will be part of the planning process for the service (please see attached maps)

## **COST**

No costs are incurred at this time. Budgetary impacts will be determined in phase two of the feasibility study.

## **CONCLUSION**

Phase one of the Mission-Kent Transit Feasibility Study is underway. The Regional and Corporate Services Committee, Electoral Area Services Committee and Board will be provided regular updates as the project moves forward.

## **COMMENTS BY:**

**Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning and Initiatives**

Reviewed and supported

**Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs**

Reviewed and supported

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

Reviewed and supported

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported