

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT Regular

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

### 1. COVID Update

August was another record month for ridership, exceeding August 2019 by 18.6%. GoBus ridership is approximately 76% of August 2019.

### 2. Electrification Plan

Now that the project scope has been signed, the data collection phase of the project has begun.

### 3. RFP – GoBus Service

The successful bidder, PW Transit Canada, has withdrawn their bid. Tok Transit, who was ranked second, has been notified and contract negotiation has begun. Once this is complete, discussions on the transition plan will begin.

### 4. Third Party Assessments for GoBus Eligibility

As of today's date, 197 existing customers remain to be assessed by September 30, 2022, as required by the contract with Telus.

### 5. Status of ICIP Funding Applications

1. Replacement of Paratransit Fleet	Tender awarded
2. Ten Accessible Bus Shelters	Tender awarded
3. Replacement Shelter Van	Approval of Funding received
4. Replacement Community Bus	Approval of Funding received
5. Hybrid buses (8) 40-foot	Application submitted May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
6. Stop Announcement System	Application submitted July 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
7. Radio System Upgrade	Application submitted Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2022

### 6. Shelter – Gathering Place

As requested at the September Commission meeting, Vice-Chair Ian Froude and Commissioner Maggie Burton met with the Executive Director of The Gathering Place, Paul Davis. They discussed the challenges we are experiencing with the shelter near their building. I subsequently spoke to Mr. Davis as well. He committed to assisting us to address the issue by having their maintenance staff visit the shelter each morning to clean up the garbage, cardboard, and other discarded items, and to provide assistance, where possible, to people sleeping in the shelter.

I committed to him that we would monitor the shelter over the next few weeks to see if there is an improvement. The situation seems to be deteriorating. Last week, a person and their dog were living in the shelter with tarps covering the door. Our customer was waiting outside. When our maintenance staff stopped, the person made hand gestures (his middle finger) and yelled profanity. Understandably, staff are concerned for their safety.

**7. Delivery – Eighteen (18) New Paratransit Buses for GoBus**

An update was received from Crestline Bus. Delivery of the buses is delayed until December. The tender required delivery by October 31<sup>st</sup>. We are concerned that more delays will result in the buses not arriving in time for the start of the new contract on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

In speaking with the General Manager, MVT, there is currently one bus off the road and more scheduled for inspection in the coming weeks. It is expected that some of the buses will not pass inspection. We will meet with MVT in the next week for an update.

**8. Ad – New Commissioners**

The ad for Expressions of Interest will be advertised in the Telegram Sep 24, Oct 1, and Oct 8, with a submission deadline of October 14, 2022. It will also be shared via Facebook and Twitter.