

Request for Decision

File No: Shh 231 003

Date December 20, 2019
Author Shannon Moskal, Corporate Officer
Subject Elk Valley Transit Future Service Plan

REQUEST

To receive the Elk Valley Transit Future Service Plan and decide whether to proceed with a future expansion initiative.

OPTIONS

1. THAT BC Transit be requested to include in their Transit Improvement Process an expansion of the Elk Valley Transit System in 2021 to provide increased service between Elkford and Cranbrook as described in Option 1 of the 2019 Elk Valley Transit Service Plan.
2. THAT BC Transit be requested to include in their Transit Improvement Process an expansion of the Elk Valley Transit System in _____ to provide _____ as described in the 2019 Elk Valley Transit Service Plan.
3. THAT an expansion of the Elk Valley Transit System not be pursued at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Attached is the Elk Valley Transit Future Service Plan prepared by BC Transit. The Plan identifies the following 5 proposals for transit service improvements:

Proposed Service Improvement	Estimated Service Hours	Expansion Buses Required	Estimated RDEK Share of Costs*	Estimated Tax Increase*
1. Increased Service Between Elkford and Cranbrook	1,300	1	\$79,000	56%
2. Elkford – Cranbrook Commuter Service	1,300	1	\$79,000	56%
3. Weekend Service	1,300	1	\$79,000	56%
4. Increased Service Between Fernie and Sparwood	800	1	\$59,000	42%
5. Fernie Local Service Improvements	200	0	\$9,000	6%

* These are high-level estimates and are subject to change. The 2019 requisition for the Service was \$140,000.

BC Transit has recommended that increased service between Elkford and Cranbrook (#1) be prioritized for any future expansion initiatives.

In order to proceed with one of the proposed service improvements, a decision to do so is required. BC Transit would then integrate the request into their 3-year Transit Improvement Process, which is in the process of being updated for 2020 (to be finalized in Jan/Feb 2020). The RDEK currently has an Expansion Memorandum of Understanding with BC Transit which identifies a potential service improvement in 2021. This MOU would be updated to reflect the request. The earliest that a service improvement could be rolled out is 2021 (in the fall), subject to Provincial funding approval.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

Estimated costs for the proposed service improvement would need to be included in the Financial Plan.

Attachment