



SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

MEETING HELD IN THE DISTRICT OF SECHELT COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM AT 5797 COWRIE STREET, SECHELT, B.C. AND VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

(Voting Members)

W. Conway
E. Eaton
L. Forrest
R. Kiewitz
A. Lattanzi
B. Straw
S. Tompkins
M. Verhoeven, Student Representative

ALSO PRESENT:

(Non-Voting)

Councillor, TOG
Councillor, DOS
SCRD Director, Electoral Area B
SCRD Director, (Alternate)

D. Croal
D. Inkster
J. Gabias
D. McMahon

REGRETS:

Member
Member

D. Dutto
A. Gursche

STAFF

Corporate Officer, DOS
Staff, SCR D
Staff, TOG

K. Poulsen (Recording Secretary)
R. Porte
K. Thomas

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members participated in a round table of introductions.

AGENDA

Recommendation No. 1

Moved/Seconded

That the agenda be amended to add an update on hearing accessibility from Committee Member A. Lattanzi; and

That the February 24, 2025, agenda of the Sunshine Coast Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN CONSULTANT

The Chair introduced the consultant selected to assist the Committee with the development of the Regional Accessibility Plan, *Untapped Accessibility*, and invited Managing Director Trish Kelly to provide a presentation on their experience and approach to Plans that meet Part 3 of the Accessible BC Act.

The Committee discussed next steps for the development of the Regional Accessibility Plan, including:

- Timing for a co-design workshop, in which the consultant will meet with committee members to identify their vision, specific goals and intended audience for the Plan;
- Following the workshop the consultant will produce a draft that will be reviewed by the Committee and staff before it is presented to local governments for consideration of endorsement.

In a general discussion of the development of the Regional Accessibility Plan, members of the Committee noted the importance of finding a balance between action, accountability and vision that that is inclusive of all levels of ability for the Sunshine Coast.

Staff confirmed that proposed meeting dates will be circulated by email.

Working groups were briefly discussed by the Committee as a part of the Accessibility Plan Consultant discussion.

HEARING ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

Committee Member A. Lattanzi provided an update of her findings for hearing accessibility, including the transition from hearing loops, which had been widely used for cochlear implants and hearing aids to new technologies that are now available. She noted that the new video platform for public meetings on the Sunshine Coast Regional District website does not include closed captioning, whereas their previous system automatically included this.

RECOMMENDATION ON HANDY DART SERVICE

The Chair informed the Committee that he had observed a gap in scheduling Handy Dart service at the Langdale Ferry Terminal that, in his opinion, constituted a safety concern. The Chair explained that currently it is possible to schedule the Handy Dart to drop off a rider at the Langdale Ferry Terminal, but that there was no option to schedule a pick up from the terminal at a specific time. This leaves Handy Dart riders with limited options for travel.

He noted that in other jurisdictions, such as Horseshoe Bay, it is possible to schedule a drop off or a pick up from a ferry, and that Handy Dart coordinates with BC Ferries in the event that the ferry is delayed.

Recommendation No. 2

Moved/Seconded

WHEREAS everyone should have access to public transportation; and

WHEREAS there is currently no option to schedule Sunshine Coast Handy Dart service pick up times to coordinate with BC Ferry schedules at Langdale Terminal; and

WHEREAS other jurisdictions such as Horseshoe Bay do offer Handy Dart service coordinated with ferry schedules within regular operating hours, and

WHEREAS continuous transportation to and from the Sunshine Coast helps to facilitate the safety of the residents and community members on the Sunshine Coast, as well as visitors;

NOW THEREFORE:

The Sunshine Coast Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Town of Gibsons, Sunshine Coast Regional District and District of Sechelt advocate to BC Transit in support of coordinating Sunshine Coast Handy Dart drop off and pick up times with BC Ferry schedules within regular operating hours.

ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation No. 3

Moved/Seconded

That the February 24, 2025 Sunshine Coast Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting be adjourned at 3:32 pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:

William Conway, Chair

Kerianne Poulsen, Corporate Officer