

# B.C. on the Move: Engagement Meeting Notes

NOVEMBER 25, 2014

11:30AM

VANCOUVER

<b>ATTENDEES/AFFILIATION</b>	Jane Dyson, Disability Alliance BC
<b>MOTI REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Kirsten Pedersen, Executive Project Director, BC on the Move, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Ed Miska, Chief Traffic, Electrical, Hwy Safety and Geo Standards Engineer, MoTI
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Carmen Bennett, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.
<b>KEY THEMES (3-6)</b>	
1)	<b>Transit:</b> The participant noted that increased and accessible public transit is important for servicing the diverse needs of the population, for reducing congestion on roads, and for providing people with the necessary services so they can get where they need to go.
2)	<b>Transit:</b> The participant noted that transit on the Lower Mainland is a model in terms of accessibility, but there are some considerations that need to be made. The participant noted that real consultation with the community is necessary in this respect, as there are small considerations that go a long way with servicing the needs of the population.
3)	<b>Transit:</b> The participant noted there are challenges associated with the HandyDART service, including cost, and more people are beginning to use taxi services to get where they need to go.
4)	<b>Transit:</b> The participant noted it is important to consider the aging population in terms of expanding and integrating more accessible public transit in rural and urban areas.
5)	<b>Highways and side roads:</b> The participant noted that having well-maintained roads is important.
<b>CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Alliance BC noted that transit accessibility is going to be an increasing concern for seniors and for people with disabling conditions. Providing accessible transit opportunities is necessary.</li> <li>The participant noted there are challenges associated with the HandyDART service.</li> <li>Disability Alliance BC noted there are challenges associated with transit accessibility in rural areas.</li> <li>The participant noted that increased public transit service is necessary, due to increased congestion in the Lower Mainland.</li> </ul>
<b>MOVING FORWARD – STRATEGIES</b>	
1)	<b>Moving People and Goods Safely and Reliably</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Alliance BC noted that members of the Disability Alliance board are located in different parts of the province and it can be challenging for them to get to Vancouver, as accessibility issues are a problem with Greyhound transportation and other services.</li> <li>The participant noted that there is a growing need to consider seniors when thinking about public transit. Transit accessibility is a big consideration for a portion of the population that is used to driving. The participant noted that services are going to be increasingly needed by seniors, and they are concerned about accessibility.</li> <li>The participant noted that the existing issues are going to become more prominent as the population ages, suggesting that accessibility concerns are similar for seniors as they are for people with disabilities.</li> <li>Disability Alliance BC noted that cuts to coastal ferry services are an issue. The participant also noted that there are accessibility issues to address on BC Ferries (e.g. there are often problems with elevators).</li> <li>The participant noted issues with clear signage to assist way-finding in transit areas. For people with disabilities, clear fonts are necessary, and consideration also need to be made for vision-impaired people. The participant noted that the City of Richmond has made some good modifications in terms of signage that have been well-implemented in the community.</li> <li>The participant noted that custom transit (e.g. HandyDART) is an expensive way to move people around, and people are tending to use taxi service much more. The Disability Alliance has worked with the taxi industry in Vancouver to develop educational and training materials for drivers.</li> <li>Disability Alliance BC noted there are problems with the transit system, forcing people to use HandyDART when they may not need to. More flexibility in services is necessary, so that people have the opportunity to get rides when they need and want them. The participant noted there is opportunity for more creative solutions, which can save money. For example, taxis have been a creative solution to limit the number of rejected rides.</li> <li>The participant noted that the increased capacity of highways coming into Vancouver causes more congestion on existing roads. The participant suggested increased public transit is necessary in order to decrease cars on the roads and to maximize efficiency for commuters that cannot afford to live in downtown Vancouver. Congestion is not good for the health of the population or the environment.</li> <li>Disability Alliance BC noted that Vancouver has an advantage, as transit is very accessible here for people with disabilities, but this is likely not the same in other areas of the province. The participant highlighted that the Canada Line is excellent in terms of accessibility, and the Disability Alliance worked closely with TransLink on implementing that. The participant suggested that this region is a model of accessibility in terms of transit.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted that real consultation with the community helps and saves money in the long run, as the small things go a long way with servicing the needs of the population, and it is often these things that are overlooked.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted generally that the people the Disability Alliance works with tend to be those with low incomes.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Alliance BC noted that having well-maintained roads is important.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted that use of tactile strips on sidewalks and in transit areas is important for visually impaired people.</li> </ul>
2) Growing the Economy
3) Connecting and Strengthening Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted that the HandyDART is the main consideration for the Disability Alliance. The Alliance has played a major role in ensuring access has been provided in the public transportation system.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted issues with small airport services and highlighted that, for some places, air transportation is important to maintain economic development in communities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted she would like to encourage the implementation of an underground SkyTrain line along the Broadway corridor. The participant noted that the B-Line buses are good, but they are overwhelmed with demand for transportation along this corridor. The participant noted people with disabilities are often unable to get service here at busy times of day, due to capacity problems.</li> </ul>
4) Maximizing Collaboration and Investment with Partners and Stakeholders
<b>TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible public transit is a priority for the Lower Mainland and for rural areas of B.C. Expanded public transit and accessible services are necessary for servicing the aging population and those with disabling conditions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing challenges associated with the HandyDART service is a priority for the Disability Alliance.</li> </ul>
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted that the Disability Alliance has done a lot of work with TransLink and BC Ferries regarding accessibility.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant expressed disappointment with the Compass Card system, as barriers are inaccessible for many people with disabilities. The participant noted that this can take away dignity for some people, as they will regularly have to ask for help, when they never used to. Having systems in place that maintain dignity is important.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participant noted that people are using larger wheelchairs and mobility scooters, which is something to consider moving forward. These create challenges for public transit accessibility and has the potential to become a serious issue.</li> </ul>