

Youth Priorities for Public Transportation Improvement

Presentation to Committee of the Whole
Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council Chair, Michael Ribicic
2018-MAR-12



Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council (NYAC)

- Established in 2014 as the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council
- Members are between the ages of 15-24 with one Council representative
- 2018 Strategic Priorities: Youth Poverty, Event Participation and Transportation

Youth Stakeholder Consultation

- At our regular meeting on 2018-FEB-21, NYAC invited representatives from SD68 high school student councils, the VIU Student Union, and the Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre Youth Advisory Council to present their priorities for improvements to public transportation from a youth perspective
- From this input, NYAC identified three priority areas for suggested improvement

Increased Bus Frequency and Capacity

- More buses needed at high schools during peak after school hours
- Most frequently cited routes for more service are the #40 and #15 (NDSS) and #50 and #7 (Barsby)
- Better connections required between the most popular bus routes and buses that service high schools should be scheduled to provide a reasonable amount of time between the end of class and when the bus departs

Safety at Bus Stops

- NDSS students report feeling unsafe during loading and unloading as the overcrowding issue has led to people being pushed out into the street
- Insufficient lighting at some bus stops (students reported the buses sometimes did not stop because they were not seen, then waiting 1+ hour for the next bus if it was an infrequent route); also an issue of feeling safe while waiting

Suggestions for Modified Routes

- Extend bus service to Tenth Street (this is part of the RDN future plans and should be made a high priority)
- Consider expanded connections between VIU and John Barsby School and the rest of the south end (e.g. East-West on Seventh Street)
- Consider expanded service in areas of north Nanaimo with very limited service (e.g. Linley Valley)

Requested Motion

That Council support the Nanaimo Youth Advisory Council attending the Regional District of Nanaimo Transit Select Committee, for the purpose of presenting identified priorities of youth for public transportation improvements.