



*building communities together*

## **2021 Business Plan North Cariboo HandyDart (1038)**

*Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services*

***Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.***

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### **Department/Function Services**

The North Cariboo HandyDart Transit contribution function was established through Bylaw No. 4292 in 2007. This service is delivered by means of a contract, under the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Quesnel, which provides HandyDart Transit to portions of Electoral Areas A, B, C and I in the greater Quesnel area.

Participants in the service are taxed based on the assessed value of improvements only. A referendum in 2014 increased the maximum requisition to the greater of \$70,000, or \$0.08971/\$1,000 of assessment, to provide a contribution more consistent with the actual local government costs for the service.

The Directors for Electoral Areas A, B, C and I are responsible for the governance of this service.

### **Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies**

#### **2021 Goal**

**Goal:** Provide an annual breakdown of statistics showing met trips and unmet trips for the HandyDart service.

**Rationale:** Tracking met trips and unmet trips will determine if the service is adequately meeting the needs of clients and users.

**Strategy:** The statistics will be obtained from the operators, the City of Quesnel and BC Transit and provided to Regional District staff.

## **Overall Financial Impact**

The 2021 requisition is increased by \$1,013 from the 2020 requisition to \$68,513. An increase of 1.5% per year is included through the rest of the five-year plan to account for inflation in the contribution agreement with the city.

The 2020 requisition was increased by \$9,500 from the 2019 requisition to cost share the taxi-saver service with the City of Quesnel and BC Transit.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Quesnel, the contract value to deliver services for this function will increase by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of September 30th each year. This increase will be limited by the maximum requisition possible for the function as defined by the service establishment bylaw.

## **Significant Issues & Trends**

In the challenging times of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the HandyDart service adjusted operating procedures and developed safety plans in order to continue to be open and available. It is unknown at this time if this will continue and to what extent into 2021.

HandyDart ridership was steady throughout the year, but highly dependent on repeated use by individuals requiring service. In 2020, rides to the end of August totaled 2,468, a decrease of approximately 52% from the same period in 2019 due primarily to the COVID-19 situation, but still demonstrating continued regular use of the service. There were four unmet trips between January and August 2020.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

## **Measuring Previous Years Performance**

**Goal:** Contribute to the taxi-saver program for service into rural areas.

- Completed. The City of Quesnel was paid the increased amount.

**Goal:** Provide an annual breakdown of statistics showing met trips and unmet trips for the HandyDart service.

- Completed.