



# UBCM Electoral Area Directors' Forum

## *Transit in Rural Areas*

FEBRUARY 2, 2021



# Agenda

- Overview of BC Transit
- Rural Transit – Characteristics, Benefits and Challenges
- Examples of Rural Transit Service
- Opportunities



# BC Transit

- Provincial authority responsible for the planning, funding and operation (marketing, fleet, scheduling, planning) of all transit service throughout the Province outside of Metro Vancouver





# Service Delivery

## Conventional Transit

- Fixed routes & schedules
- Mainly urban settings

## Custom Transit (handyDART)

- Door to door; demand responsive
- Eligible people with a disability

## Flexible Transit

- Flexible routing and schedules
- Small towns, and rural communities

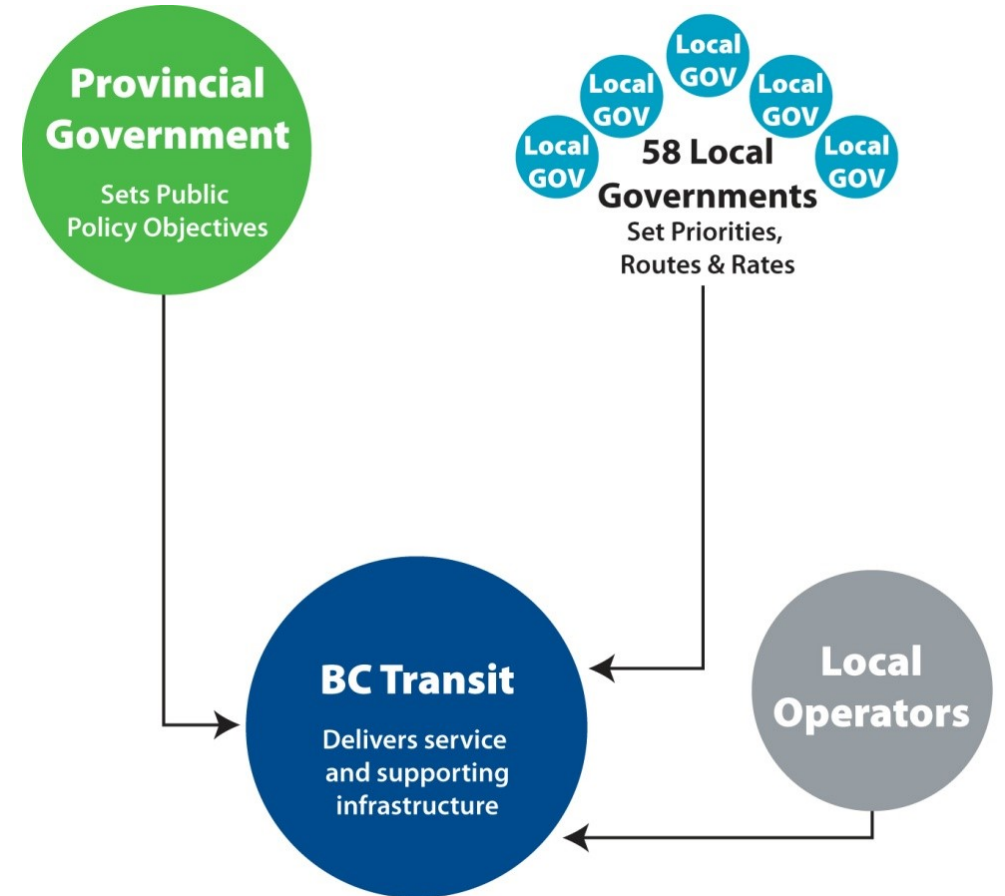
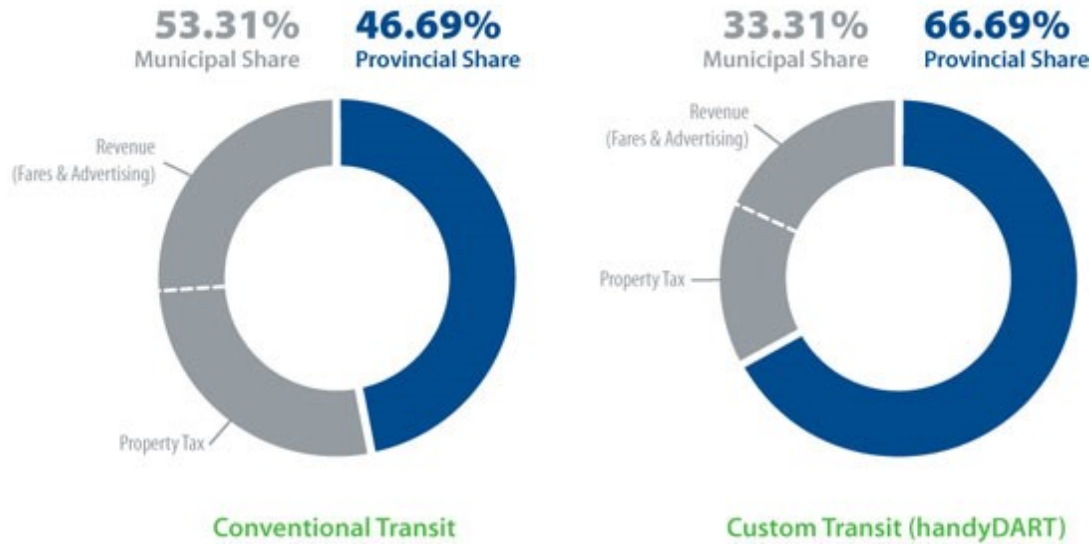
## Regional Connector Services

- Links to remote and smaller communities
- Access to healthcare, services and amenities



# Funding & Governance

## Regional Transit System – Legislated Funding Formula



# Rural Transit - Characteristics

## Communities Served

- Lower population densities
- Operating conditions can be harsh (weather & roads)
- Often involves multiple jurisdictions

## Service Provision

- Basic coverage
- Lower trip frequency
- Light duty buses

## Ridership Performance

- Lower rides per hour
- Lower cost recovery through farebox revenue





# Rural Transit - Benefits

## Economic

- Supports local business & community sustainability
- Brings shoppers to stores and supports downtown cores
- Provides access to health care and education services

## Mobility

- Provides options for workers, students, tourists
- Seniors (aging in place), low-income, persons with disabilities

## Environment

- Supports climate change strategies



# Rural Transit - Challenges

## Customers

- Travel distances and duration
- Parking – convenient and inexpensive
- Prioritizing key markets

## Local Government Funding

- Competing with other community needs
- Financial sustainability

## Supportive infrastructure

- Potential service providers
- Suitable vehicle maintenance and storage
- Bus stops & shelters





# Examples

## Powell River Regional Transit

- Partnership with qathet Regional District
- Service to Electoral Areas and Tla'amin First Nation
- Off route deviations to “By-request” service areas
- Service to Texada Island – service uses BC Ferries to provide on-island service



# Examples

## Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit

- Partnership with Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Launched in 2017 as a key component of the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan
- Provides return, same-day service to nearest regional centre

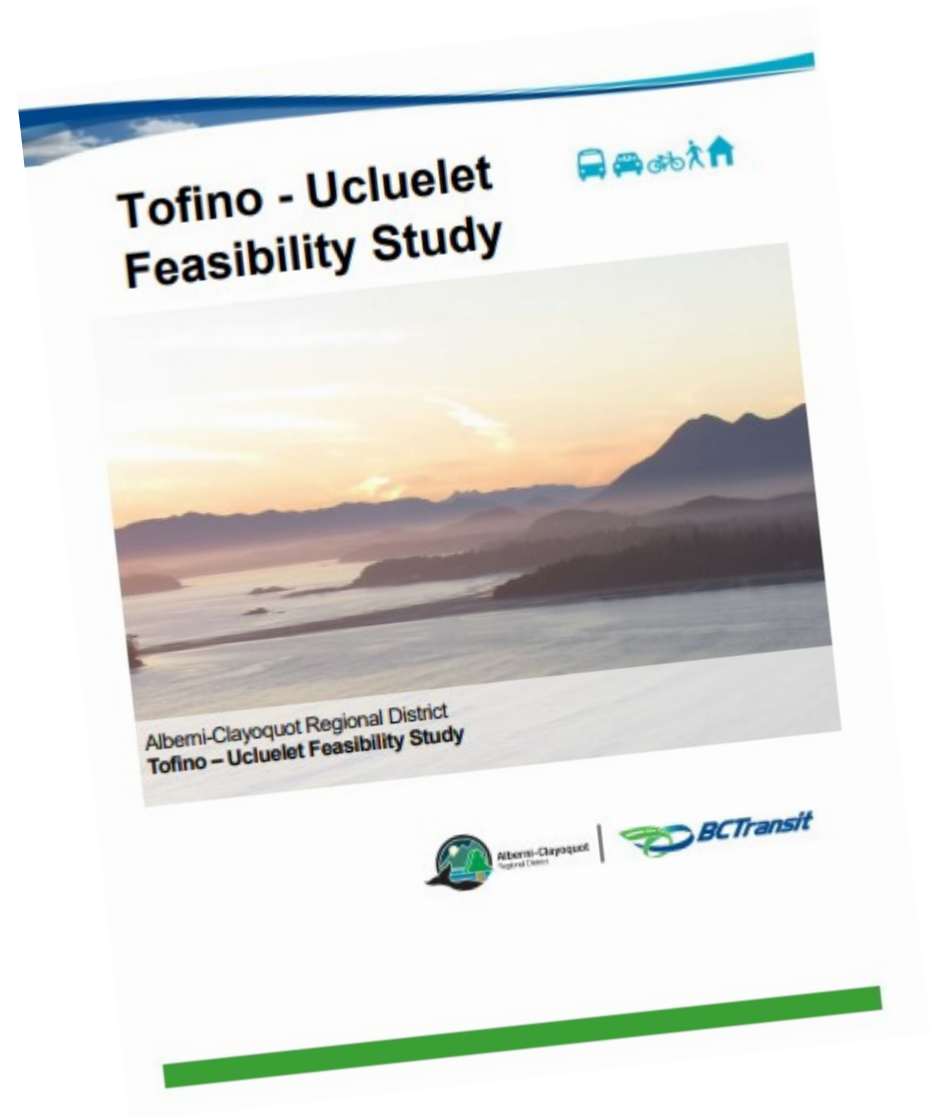


# Opportunities

What are your community's needs?

1. Request a Feasibility study
2. Determine appropriate service type & levels
3. Secure expansion funding
4. Complete RFP for service provision
5. Operating agreements

Consider alternative options





# BC Transit – Strategic Plan



## OUR VISION

**Your best transportation solution**

## OUR MISSION

**Delivering transportation services  
you can rely on**

# Thank you.

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