

September 26, 2012

## Streamlined Processes for Inter-City Bus Applications (to reduce minimum route frequency)

On September 5, 2012, the Passenger Transportation Board adopted streamlining measures for inter-city bus applicants seeking to reduce service. These measures will enable the Board to make decisions more efficiently. Operators will receive decisions quicker and, if approved, implement service changes sooner. The public continues to have an opportunity to comment on applications before the Board makes any decision.

The Board recognizes the importance of maintaining a level of inter-city bus service for communities in British Columbia. It also recognizes that the regulatory landscape for inter-city buses has changed in both Alberta and Manitoba. In making decisions on applications it receives, the Board must balance the public's need for a service with an operator's ability to maintain a financially viable service.

The Board must make its decisions within its statutory mandate. Within this framework, the Board has the flexibility to establish its own processes and policies. The Board's goal is to process applications in 60 to 90 days. To achieve this, applicants will be expected to provide timely responses to the Board, if required.

Within the month, the Board will publish updated rules, policies and application guides to reflect these changes. A backgrounder is attached with more details about policy changes the Board is implementing.

## **ICB Streamlining Measures**

### ***Publication and Public Notice (pre decision)***

- *Publication/comment period is 14 days (rather than 21)*
  - Applicants must:*
    - *Post notice of proposed service reductions prominently on their websites (rather than in newspapers)*
    - *Provide notice to municipalities and Regional Districts*
    - *Post notice of proposed service reductions in terminals or agent premises*
- *All notices will advise people that comments may be sent to the Passenger Transportation Board within 14 days of the posting of the notice. Notices will also advise people that applicants will see their complete comments.*
- *Applicants will have 7 days to reply to comments received (rather than 14 days)*

### ***Decision Making***

- *The Board will make enhancements to internal processes which speed up the processing of inter-city bus applications through measures such as the use of decision templates and overviews which assist Board Members in processing decisions.*
- *Time for decision-making will depend on the complexity of an application, the number of comments received and the quality of the application materials.*
- *The Board makes most of its decisions based on written materials in application files and comments received.*

### ***Post Decision***

- *If an application is approved, applicants must post notice of service reductions prominently on their websites no less than 7 days before implementing a service reduction. (Reduced from 14 days and eliminates publication in newspapers.)*