



**RDOS Area “D” Governance Study  
Fact Sheets  
December 2015**

# TRANSIT SERVICES

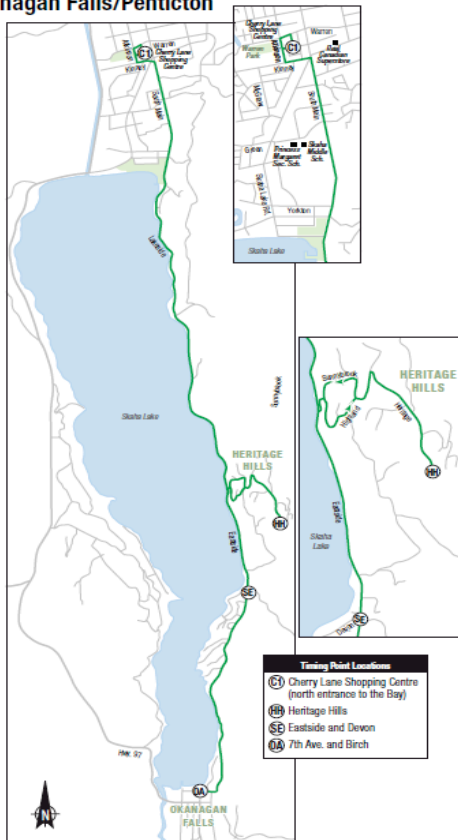
► **What services are provided?**

There are a total of five transit systems operating within the RDOS, two of which offer service within Area “D”.

**Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System**

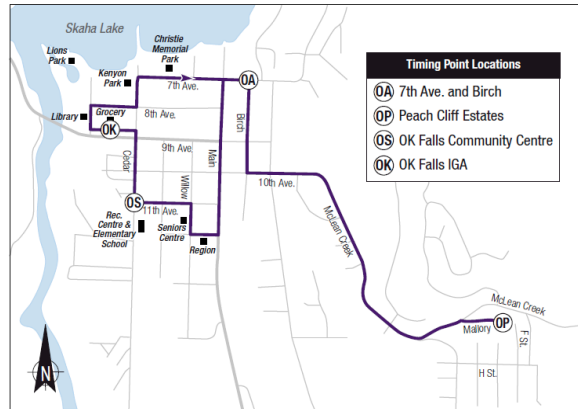
The Area “D” route on this transit system was established in 2014 and bus service was implemented in January, 2015. It includes 2 bus routes that provide weekday service only (Monday to Friday, except statutory holidays). The #20 bus provides 5-times daily return service between Penticton and Okanagan Falls along the east side of Skaha Lake via Eastside Road, with service extending into Heritage Hills subdivision.

**20 Okanagan Falls/Penticton**



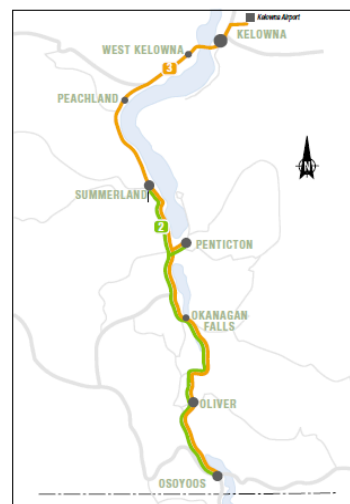
The #21 bus provides 5 daily local service loops within Okanagan Falls community.

**21 OK Falls Local**



**South Okanagan Transit System**

This service originates in Osoyoos and includes two “Health Connections” routes in partnership with Interior Health, with scheduled stops in Okanagan Falls and in Kaleden upon request. The #2 bus provides twice daily return service to Penticton via Highway #97 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The #3 bus operates on Mondays only, offering one return trip to Kelowna via Highway #97.



The 2 Health Connections routes on the South Okanagan Transit System are intended to facilitate access to non-emergency medical services in Penticton, Summerland or Kelowna, and reservations are required. Currently, there is no handyDART service within Area “D”.

➤ **Who delivers the service?**

**Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System**

The Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System is provided by the RDOS and BC Transit. Operation of buses, including management of drivers and vehicle maintenance is handled by Penticton Transit Service Ltd. on contract to the RDOS and BC Transit.

**South Okanagan Transit System**

The 2 Health Connections routes (#2 and #3) offered as part of this service are provided by the Town of Osoyoos and BC Transit, in partnership with Interior Health and the RDOS. Operation of buses, including management of drivers and vehicle maintenance, is handled by the South Okanagan Transit Society on contract to the Town of Osoyoos.

➤ **Who makes decisions?**

**Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System**

Decisions about transit fares, routes and service levels are made by the RDOS Board of Directors. In making its decisions, the Board considers information and planning advice provided by BC Transit.

The Board is also guided by the Transit Future Plan, which was completed in 2015 in partnership with BC Transit. The plan sets out an implementation strategy for short and long-term transit investments. The establishment of the Okanagan-Similkameen transit service is consistent with the Transit Future Plan in that it was identified as an immediate priority. Improved integration of the five transit systems operating within the region was also recommended as part of the Plan, including establishment of a Regional Transit Advisory Committee

**South Okanagan Transit System**

Decisions about fares, routes and service levels for the South Okanagan Transit System are made by the Town of Osoyoos and Interior Health, based on

information and planning advice provided by BC Transit.

Area “D” contributes to the South Okanagan Transit System Health Connections routes on an annual basis through its Rural Projects budget. Decisions regarding how the Rural Project budget is spent are made on an annual basis by the Electoral Area Director.

➤ **What is spent by RDOS on the services?**

**Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System**

The total cost of the Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System in the 2014/2015 fiscal year (April 1-March 31) was \$179,095. The local share of the costs for 2015 was \$77,600. The remainder is funded by BC Transit (approximately 47%) and through passenger fares.

**South Okanagan Transit System**

Three different electoral areas contribute to the South Okanagan Transit System (in addition to municipalities). The combined contribution was \$21,600 from the three electoral areas. Area “D” contributed \$9,061 from its Rural Projects budget in 2015. Currently, that contribution is received and managed by the Town of Osoyoos. The total cost of the South Okanagan Transit System for 2014/2015 was \$145,090.

**Figure 1**  
**Cost of Services**  
**2015**

Service Component	Cost <sup>1</sup>
Okanagan-Similkameen Transit (Area "D")	\$77,600
South Okanagan Transit	\$9,061
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$86,661</b>

<sup>1</sup> Cost estimates are from adopted 2015 budget figures

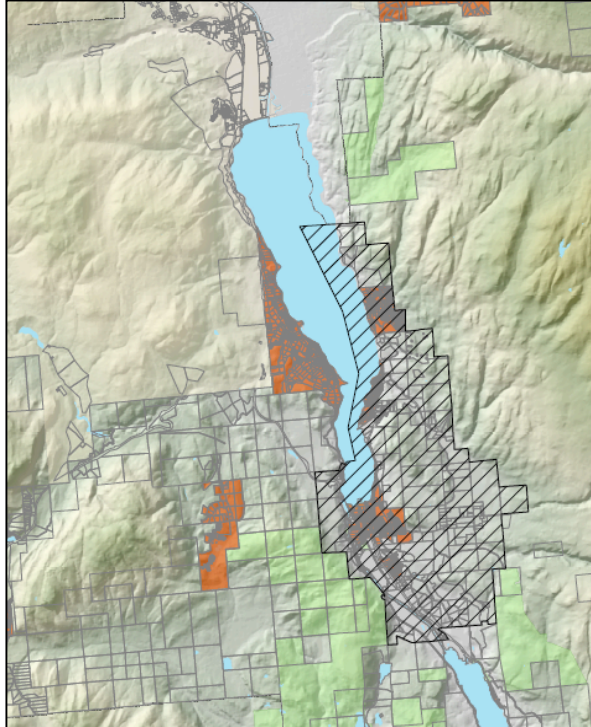
➤ **How are the costs recovered?**

**Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System**

The RDOS cost of the Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System is recovered through property taxes based on assessed value (land and improvements) within the service area (east side of Skaha Lake and the community of Okanagan Falls – see the

crosshatched area in Figure 2), as well as passenger fares. In 2015 \$15,000 was recovered through passenger fares and \$77,600 was paid through taxes. It should be noted that only those properties within the service area contribute to the Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System.

**Figure 2: Okanagan-Similkameen Transit Area “D” Service Area**



The tax impact for those residents of Area “D” within Okanagan-Similkameen Transit service area in 2015 was \$0.102 per \$1,000 of assessed value plus \$0.006 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the South Okanagan transit system, for a combined total of approximately \$35 for a residence with an assessed value of \$325,000.

Area “D” residents outside of the Okanagan-Similkameen transit service area only pay toward the 2 Health Connections routes on the South Okanagan transit system.

**Figure 3  
Cost Impact on Typical Residence  
2015**

Service	Tax Req. <sup>1</sup>	Res. Rate	Owing <sup>2</sup>
Okanagan-Similkameen Transit <sup>3</sup>	\$77,600	0.102	\$33.05
South Okanagan Transit	\$9,061	0.006	\$1.94
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$34.99</b>

<sup>1</sup> Tax requisition amount excludes 5.25% Surveyor of Taxes fee

<sup>2</sup> Impact is calculated on a home assessed at \$325,000

<sup>3</sup> Service area only

### South Okanagan Transit System

The Area “D” annual contribution to the South Okanagan Transit System (\$9,061 in 2015) comes from the Area “D” Rural Projects budget. The source of the South Okanagan Transit System contribution for 2015 was property taxes.

### ➤ What is the cost to the typical resident?

Figure 3 provides the tax impacts to a typical Area “D” residence for transit service. Transit fares for service would be in addition to the amounts shown below. Fares for 1 zone service are \$1.50, or \$2.25 for 2 zones on the Okanagan-Similkameen Transit System (\$1.25 and \$1.75 for students and seniors). The Health Connections routes in the South Okanagan Transit System range from \$4 to \$11 depending on the length of the route.