

Public Meetings on Greyhound Application 256-17

These Q&As provide additional information about public meetings the Passenger Transportation Board is holding on Greyhound application 256-17 to eliminate 9 routes and reduce minimum service requirements (and eliminate some route points) on 10 routes. Meetings are scheduled for Prince George (Dec. 11), Terrace (Dec. 12), Smithers (Dec. 13) and Fort St. John (Dec. 14). Details about the application, meetings and registering as a speaker (by noon Dec. 8) are posted on the Board’s [Greyhound Application 256-17 webpage](#).

1. Why have meetings in 4 cities in the north?.....	2
2. Why not go to communities where Greyhound wants to reduce minimum operating requirements or cut some route points?	2
3. Can I speak to the Board about Greyhound services in other communities? ..	2
4. Why not go to Lytton?.....	3
5. How many written comments did the Board receive?	3
6. Can I bring documents when I speak at a public meeting?	3
7. Why is the Prince George meeting longer than in other communities?	3
8. Why is the Board holding the public meetings now?.....	4
9. What are the possible outcomes of the application?	4

1. Why have meetings in 4 cities in the north?

- ◆ The North Central Region faces the greatest potential impact of any region in BC if the Board approves the changes that Greyhound has proposed.
- ◆ We decided to focus the resources we have to go to some of the communities in that region and hear directly from:
 - ◆ individuals and community representatives about what transportation services people use and how Greyhound's proposed changes could affect them;
 - ◆ Greyhound on its passenger services and business model that relate to the application
- ◆ We chose 4 communities of different sizes where we felt we could get additional information that would help us decide Greyhound's application.

2. Why not go to communities where Greyhound wants to reduce minimum operating requirements or cut some route points?

- ◆ We received comments from people on each Greyhound corridor and we will consider that information when we make a decision on the application.
- ◆ Also, Greyhound stated in its [public rationale](#) that if the Board approves the lower service requirements it proposes for 10 of its routes, it will not change service levels right away. It noted that it plans to maintain current service levels on those routes and adjust them based on demand for its services.
- ◆ The public meetings enable the Board to obtain additional information from Greyhound about its proposal to reduce service level requirements and eliminate some of the route points.
- ◆ We may also hear from speakers in Prince George who can talk about the impact of potential service level reductions if we approve the Greyhound proposal to change service requirements on the Prince George – Vancouver route.

3. Can I speak to the Board about Greyhound services in other communities?

- ◆ Yes. People who register to speak at one of the public meetings may comment on any Greyhound-proposed service reduction or elimination that affects them.
- ◆ The Board is interested in hearing from people and community representatives about their travel experiences and needs in BC and how Greyhound's proposed changes could affect them.

4. Why not go to Lytton?

- ◆ The Board received about 1,000 petition signatures and comments about Greyhound's proposal to eliminate service to Lytton and communities in the Fraser Canyon area between Cache Creek and Hope. The information we have received will inform our decision making.
- ◆ When we decided to hold public meeting, we chose to focus the resources we have to go to communities in the North Central Region of BC where Greyhound seeks to eliminate most of its scheduled routes. The meetings will enable the Board to hear from people about how the proposed changes could affect them whether they use Greyhound in the north or in other parts of the province.

5. How many written comments did the Board receive?

- ◆ We published Greyhound's application on September 13, 2017 and received more than 220 individually-written emails and letters from across the province. Most were from Greyhound users. A good number these emails and letters came from government representatives as well as advocacy groups and businesses.
- ◆ In addition, we received form emails from more than 1,700 people about proposed route eliminations on Highway 16. More than 100 provided additional information and comments.
- ◆ We also received about 1,000 petition signatures and comments about Greyhound's proposal to eliminate service to Lytton and communities in the Fraser Canyon area between Cache Creek and Hope.
- ◆ The written information we received from the public will be considered by the Board when it makes its decision on the application.

6. Can I bring documents when I speak at a public meeting?

- ◆ The purpose of the public meetings is to hear oral testimony.
- ◆ However, speakers who wish to supplement their statements with written materials or documents will need to bring copies for the Board and the Greyhound representative. We suggest that 5 copies be provided. At the meeting, the Board will decide whether to accept the materials.

7. Why is the Prince George meeting longer than in other communities?

- ◆ Prince George is the largest population centre in the province's North Central Region. It is also a transportation hub with Greyhound routes that serve corridors to the north, east, west and south. Regardless of the scheduled length of a meeting, the Board has the discretion to extend a meeting where it deems it necessary.

8. Why is the Board holding the public meetings now?

- ◆ The Board set meeting in early December to move forward with the application and provide the public and Greyhound with a timely decision.
- ◆ Public meetings are scheduled from December 11 to 14, 2017. This will allow the Board to gather more information from the public and Greyhound so it can issue a decision early in 2018.
- ◆ The Board decided to hold public meetings after it reviewed application materials, written comments from the public and Greyhound's reply to those comments. On November 23, we advised Greyhound that we will hold 4 public meetings and on November 29, we published a Notice of Public Meetings.
- ◆ We are distributing meeting notices widely by sending them to media outlets in areas surrounding the meeting locations and to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and Northern Central Local Government Association (NCLGA). In addition, we are requiring that Greyhound send meeting notices to local governments and First Nations, and to post notices on its website and at Greyhound facilities along its northern routes.

9. What are the possible outcomes of the application?

- ◆ The Board will make its decisions after considering:
 - ◆ written information and comments received from the public in response to the published application;
 - ◆ oral testimony and evidence received from individuals and community representatives at public meetings; and
 - ◆ information and evidence received from Greyhound in its application materials, responses to public comments and at meetings.
- ◆ Board considerations focus primarily on the public's use of Greyhound inter-city bus services and the financial health and viability of those operations.
- ◆ The Board may approve the application in whole, in part, with some modifications, or it may refuse the application in its entirety.
- ◆ The Board will make its decision in early 2018.