



Victoria Rapid Transit Corridor

Southbound Douglas Bus Priority Lanes Extension

FAQs

What are priority transit lanes?

These are specially marked lanes for transit use that help transit vehicles maintain an efficient and reliable schedule in congested areas.

Where is this phase of construction taking place?

This latest phase (Phase 2B) extends the priority transit lanes southbound from Tolmie Avenue to Hillside Avenue.

Where do the priority transit lanes run in their entirety along the Douglas corridor?

With this latest phase complete, the priority bus lanes now run both northbound and southbound between Tolmie Avenue and Fisgard Street.

What length of Douglas Street is impacted by this project?

The latest extension between Tolmie Avenue and Hillside Avenue measures 1.3km, bringing the total length of the priority to lanes to 2.2km both northbound and southbound.

What are the benefits of priority transit lanes?

The Douglas Street Bus Priority Lanes project is designed to shorten travel times for passengers, increase the reliability of public transit, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by limiting idling. Encouraging more transit use will also lower the number of vehicles on the road. The Douglas Street corridor supports approximately 1,700 vehicles per hour during peak travel times.

What is happening with the planting of trees along the route?

40 new trees will be planted, taking into consideration the species that will have the best chance for success given a particular location.

What other notable changes took place along this portion of the Douglas corridor as part of this project?

Additional work that was included in the southbound Tolmie to Hillside stretch of the Douglas corridor was:

- Concrete road and asphalt paving
- Sidewalk and boulevard restoration and improvements
- New line painting
- New signal infrastructure

- New LED lighting

How much will this project cost and how is it being funded?

The project budget was \$4.3 million and was funded by the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and Province of BC.

Where is there more information about the plans for the bus and bike priority lanes?

Information on this project can be found at: <https://bctransit.com/victoria/transit-future/victoria-bus-lane-douglas-hwy-1>

When are these lanes operating?

The lanes along the Douglas corridor will operate as follows:

- Northbound:
24/7 between Pembroke Street and Tolmie Avenue
3-6 p.m. Monday-Friday only between Fisgard Street and Pembroke Street
- Southbound:
24/7 between Tolmie Avenue and Kings Road
6-9 a.m. Monday-Friday only between Kings Road and Fisgard Street

Can any type of bus use the bus priority lanes?

Yes, any type of bus is able to use the bus priority lanes.

During hours of operation, what changes for me in these lanes?

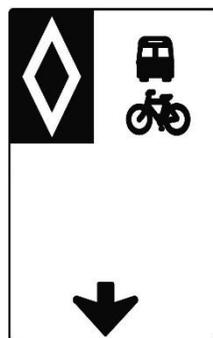
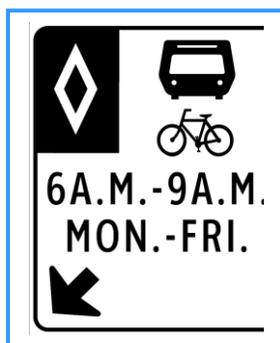
While bus lanes are in operation, you are not permitted to park, unload a vehicle or drive in the lane without the intention of turning right at the next block.

What happens during off-peak hours?

Parking will be permitted only in the designated areas when the priority transit lanes are not in operation 24/7 and are indicated by sign.

What happens if I need to turn across a bus lane?

During bus lanes operational hours, general vehicles will be allowed to enter the priority lane **only** if they are making a right hand turn within their current block.



How can I identify a bus lane?

There will be signage at the start and end of each bus lane, as well as diamond-shape markings on the road. (see images on left). The signs without specified signs mean the lanes operate 24/7.

What if I'm a cyclist?

Cyclists are allowed to use the bus lanes during operational hours. You'll be sharing the lane with

buses, so normal road safety awareness and courtesy apply. BC Transit has shared the road for many years with cyclists without designated cycling lanes. Transit operators are trained to focus on safety and watch for all other types of transportation modes.

How is this being enforced?

The rules for the bus priority lanes are enforced by local police, in this case the Victoria Police Department. The fine for being in a priority bus and bike lane is \$109. The offence is “Failure to obey designated use lane” under the Motor Vehicle Act, section 153.2.

What is being done to educate the public on how these lanes operate?

There will be information on the BC Transit website, showing the map of the Douglas corridor bus lanes and showing which portions are 24/7 and which are only operating during peak hours. We will also share this information via social media channels.

VicPD will also engage in a broader educational/enforcement campaign and the exact date is yet to be determined.

What are the impacts if private vehicles use the lanes?

BC Transit, the Victoria Police Department, and the City of Victoria hear frustration from bus drivers and transit riders when there are private vehicles in the bus and bike priority lanes as it interferes with their planned route. The timing of the bus trips includes the use of the bus priority lanes, and having private vehicles in the lanes does impact the schedules. The rules of the bus priority lanes are set by the City of Victoria and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure depending on the jurisdiction. The City of Victoria and Ministry of Transportation work collaboratively with BC Transit and the appropriate police agencies in developing the laws governing the lanes.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on the project please visit <https://bctransit.com/victoria/transit-future/victoria-bus-lane-douglas-hwy-1>