

BC TRANSIT

Victoria handyDART Centre Neighbourhood Update

Plans for handyDART Centre in View Royal are starting to take shape

We are hopeful you and your family are safe and supported during these extraordinary times.

At BC Transit, we remain committed to providing transportation services customers can rely on as we recognize people still need to get to work, healthcare offices, and other activities such as grocery shopping. We also remain committed to expanding a low-carbon fleet that makes it easier for people to choose transit over single-occupancy vehicles. The Victoria handyDART Centre, planned for the southwest corner of Watkiss Way and Burnside Road in View Royal, signifies a commitment to both, as it will facilitate growth of Victoria's conventional bus system and enhance handyDART service for many of the most vulnerable in our community.

In light of COVID-19, we recognize a lot is changing and we continue to assess the current situation, planning how best to advance initiatives safely and responsibly. We are also reminded during this time that social connectedness and access to affordable transit options are critical to our well-being as individuals and as a community.

We want to update you on the progress to date and what to expect in the coming months, including the many opportunities for public input.

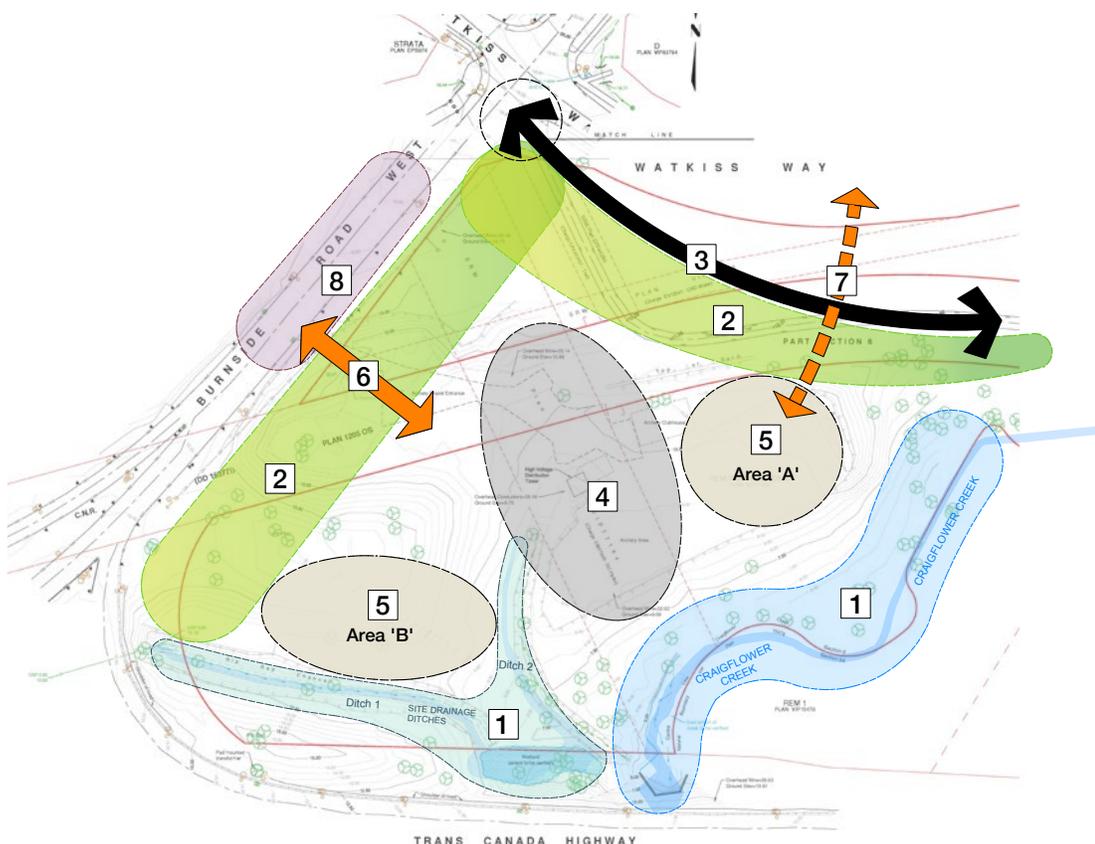
What's New

- In March, a memorandum of understanding with the Town of View Royal was finalized, confirming BC Transit's commitment to follow the spirit and intent of the Town's development processes, permitting and bylaws for 2401 Burnside Road. In addition to a number of public realm improvements, such as sidewalks and landscaping, BC Transit will provide \$150,000 to the Town of View Royal for community amenities.
- A neighbourhood working group representing diverse community perspectives has been meeting since February 2020 and consultation with local First Nations communities is ongoing.
- A local inter-disciplinary team consisting of Morrison Hershfield, D'Ambrosio architecture + urbanism, and Murdoch de Greeff landscape architects will lead the design.
- Stantec Consulting is providing Qualified Environmental Professional services to meet the requirements of the Town of View Royal Environmental Development Permit application. Their assessment will determine Craigflower Creek setbacks and environmental mitigation requirements.
- Full access to the site is not needed until September at the earliest, enabling the Bowman Archery Club to remain on site until then.

Key Features

- The main building will include West-Coast design elements to respond to the neighbourhood character and context. An enclosed wash bay and fueling station will also be included.
- The centre will be the first BC Transit facility built to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold requirements. LEED principles outline best management practices to reduce energy, chemical use, water, air pollution, solid waste, and/or runoff associated with the building site.
- At opening, all vehicles will be either gas or electric, and will gradually transition to a fully electric fleet. No diesel vehicles will be used.
- The project activities will meet or exceed all Provincial and Federal standards for environmental protection.
- In addition to retaining much of the existing greenspace, new landscaping will include dozens of native mature trees. Site fencing will be added, and new boulevards and sidewalks will be added on Watkiss Way and Burnside Road.
- Opportunities to enhance the Galloping Goose Trail adjacent to the site are being explored and locations for new transit shelters will be determined.
- Site and building lighting will work within the spirit of Dark Sky guidelines and regulations.
- Opportunities for interpretive signage to highlight cultural and environmental elements of significance.

A number of important features are already located on this property, specifically, Craigflower Creek, the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, a CRD water main and the BC Hydro Transmission Tower. As a result, there are only two suitable building locations. BC Transit had previously considered locating the building on the east corner, adjacent to the Craigflower Creek. Based on community feedback, the area adjacent to the highway is now being explored for the main building.



LEGEND

1. Craigflower Creek and Site Drainage Ditches: Watercourse setbacks to be determined by Riparian Areas Regulation study underway.
2. Streetscape improvements and setbacks: May include native landscaping, berms and sound fencing to screen property, as well as sidewalks.
3. Galloping Goose Regional Trail: Potential to improve safety and visibility. Consultation with CRD underway.
4. BC Hydro utilities: Area restricted to driveway, parking, rainwater management and landscaping uses.
5. Two suitable building areas: Area A and B indicate where buildings are allowed. Area A was originally considered, Area B now being explored to distance building from neighbours and creek.
6. Main entrance.
7. Potential emergency vehicle exit. Gated and for emergency use only.
8. Planned improvements to Burnside Road West to mitigate traffic impacts.

Disclaimer: Information is preliminary in nature and subject to confirmation of technical and regulatory requirements.

Design and Sustainability Objectives:

Six guiding principles will inform the design and sustainability objectives for the site

Archaeological preservation:

Engaging local First Nation communities to explore opportunities to work together to ensure protection of archaeological and cultural heritage on site.

Sustainable design:

Use the redevelopment of this site as an opportunity to repair and restore the disturbed ecology of the site, including the watershed and Craigflower Creek, and design a site and building that can achieve LEED Gold.

Improved pedestrian and cycling experience:

Introduce new or improved accessible connections for people who walk and cycle, including new sidewalks and potential realignment of the Galloping Goose Trail.

Neighbourhood integration:

Respect the qualities of the host neighbourhood by designing a site, building and landscaping that integrate well and enhance the neighbourhood. Consider and mitigate potential visual, safety and other impacts of the development on the surrounding area.

Good neighbour:

Build responsive relationships within the local community and First Nations to inform various elements of the redevelopment and on-going communications.

Effective and reliable service:

Design a site that supports expansion of a sustainable, fully electric handyDART service that improves access to transit for people with permanent or temporary disabilities that prevent them from using fixed-route transit without assistance from another person.



Galloping Goose Regional Trail



Highway Exit 10



Next Steps

There are three phases to the handyDART Centre project. The preliminary design will be shared in July 2020 and a refined design will be available for public feedback in September 2020. Construction is planned to start in winter 2020-2021.

WE ARE HERE



We Want to Hear from You

There are opportunities to provide input at every stage of design. We welcome your input at this early stage of planning and design. **An online survey to capture your feedback is available until Monday, June 12, 2020 at: bctransit.com/viewroyal/handydart**

In light of physical distancing and limits on large group gatherings, in-person engagement opportunities are currently limited. We are hopeful they may be possible in the future. Information boards will be located on-site this spring so neighbours can learn more.

All public input will be shared with the design team to inform future planning and design. It will also be shared with the Town of View Royal and posted at bctransit.com/viewroyal/handydart

We look forward to sharing the preliminary site and landscaping design and getting your feedback in July 2020.

Learn More and Keep in Touch

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Burnside Road and Watkiss Way Intersection



BC Hydro Transmission Tower