



11 - Saanich Transit Centre Project Update

November 18, 2025



Purpose

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) with an update on the planning and development of the future Saanich Transit Centre and to recommend a local government engagement approach prior to Commission approval of the project
- This report is presented to the Commission for **APPROVAL**

Victoria Regional Facilities



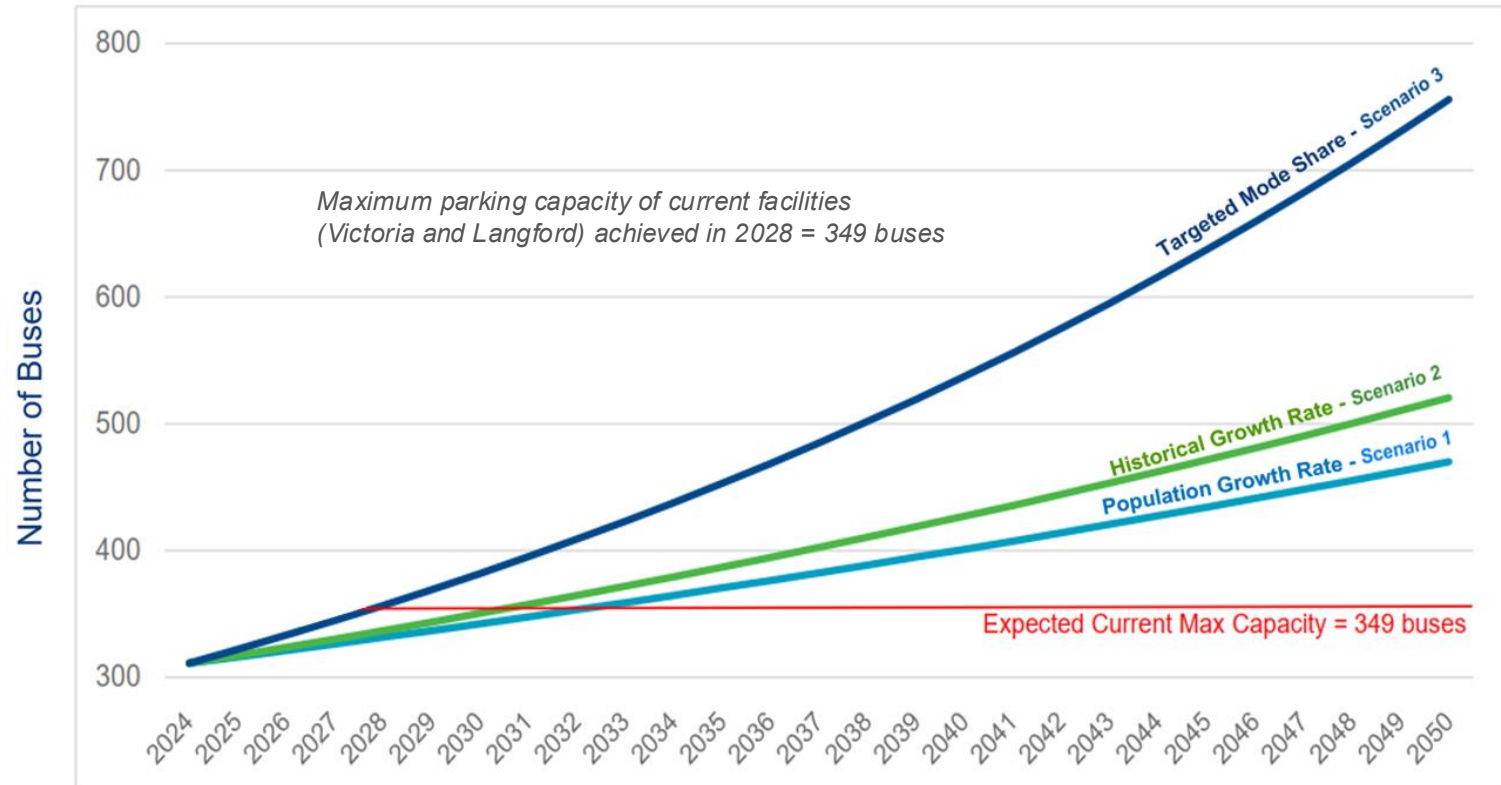
Regional Transit Facilities – Nearing Capacity

- A new Operations & Maintenance facility was first identified as a priority investment within the 2011 Victoria Regional Transit Plan
- Regional Transit facilities (Victoria and Langford) are set to reach capacity by as early as 2028
- Expanded service requires expanded space - the Saanich Transit Centre is essential to delivering on regional and provincial transportation and climate goals

Regional Demand Drivers

- **Forecast Need:** A new Operations & Maintenance facility was first identified in 2011 in the Victoria Regional Transit Plan and is expected to be identified as a critical need in the ongoing Victoria Regional Transit Plan which will be released 2026
- **Population Growth Impact:** Regional Population has grown by +50,000 since 2011, driving increased demand for transit
- **Transit Mode Share:** The Victoria Regional Transit Commission has an ambitious target of a 15 per cent transit mode share by 2050, which would require more than double the current service levels
- **Land Use Plans:** The adoption of new Official Community Plans, updated Transportation Plans, ambitious climate targets, and provincial Transit-Oriented Development areas requires significant investment in modern transit facilities to support expanded service and meet future mobility needs

Regional Demand Forecast



How we got here

Date	Activity
2011	Identified need for third Operations & Maintenance facility in the Victoria Regional Transit Future Plan
2011 – 2020	Properties totaling ~5 acres have been strategically acquired in Saanich's Royal Oak light industrial area
2020 – 2025	Relocating existing handyDART operations to new View Royal facility in 2025, freeing up space for Saanich Transit Centre
2021 – 2022	Secured funding for project planning and business case development (\$2.6M)
2023	Secured funding for site preparation (\$47.8M)
2024 – 2025	Technical studies to prepare for future development
2024 – 2025	Early public and First Nations engagement
2025 – 2026	Site preparation activities

Future Saanich Transit Centre



The Site



- Central location with access to Patricia Bay Highway
- Consolidating five BC Transit owned properties (5.14 acres)
- Industrial Zoning in place permitting this use
- Two properties historically used for bus operations and maintenance
- Planned use as next Operations & Maintenance Facility and designed to be electric vehicle ready

Foundational Planning Steps Underway

Site Analysis and Technical Constraints

Assess geotechnical conditions, access, and utilities to inform design options

Functional Program and Construction Scope

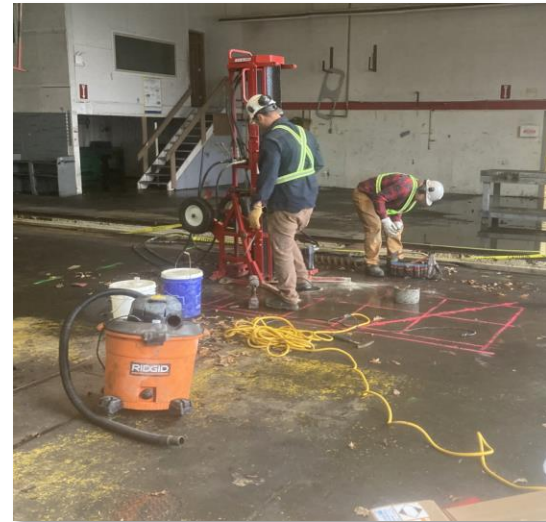
Define operational requirements, site capacity, current and future maintenance needs to inform facility design, as well as determine potential approaches to construction and risk mitigation

Implementation Strategy

An initial facility build to meet short/medium term expansion needs, while also protecting for longer term facility expansion. The property is sufficient to support long-term growth, as well as integration with other regional transportation plans, e.g., RapidBus

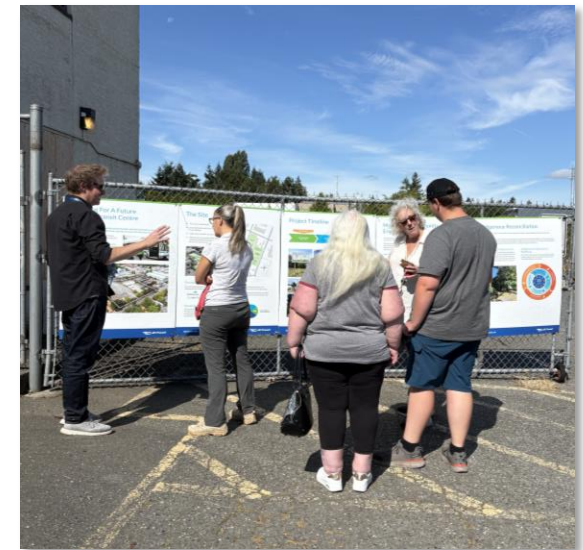
Site Preparation

- Site assessment and technical studies completed over past year to inform future development plans
- All technical studies are available on project website
- Demolition expected to commence early 2026 taking approximately six months
- Vacant buildings currently being utilized for police training by regional units
- Project budget for site preparation activities is \$48 million



Public Engagement

- Presented to Carey Area Residents' Association in May and Royal Oak Community Association in September
- Attended Music in the Park in Brydon Park in July, connecting with 175 people
- 45 people attended two neighbourhood open houses on the former Wilson's site on August 14 and August 16
- Project information hand-delivered to neighbourhood homes
- Website: www.bctransit.com/saanichtransitcentre
- Subscriber e-newsletter
- Further community engagement planned for early 2026 to inform site planning and design



First Nations Consultation and Engagement

- Consultation with First Nations regarding site preparation work commenced in 2023 and is ongoing. The Nations being consulted include:
 - Songhees Nation
 - Tsartlip First Nation
 - Tsawout First Nation
 - Tseycum First Nation
 - Te'Mexw Treaty Association
 - Esquimalt Nation
 - Malahat Nation
 - Pauquachin First Nation
 - Scianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation
- Future consultation and engagement with First Nations regarding facility development will be aligned with Local Government engagement
- First Nations are also being consulted on regional transit and transportation plans through a concurrent, collaborative process between BC Transit, Capital Regional District, Ministry of Transportation and Transit and Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada which commenced in late September

Partnership Funding Approach

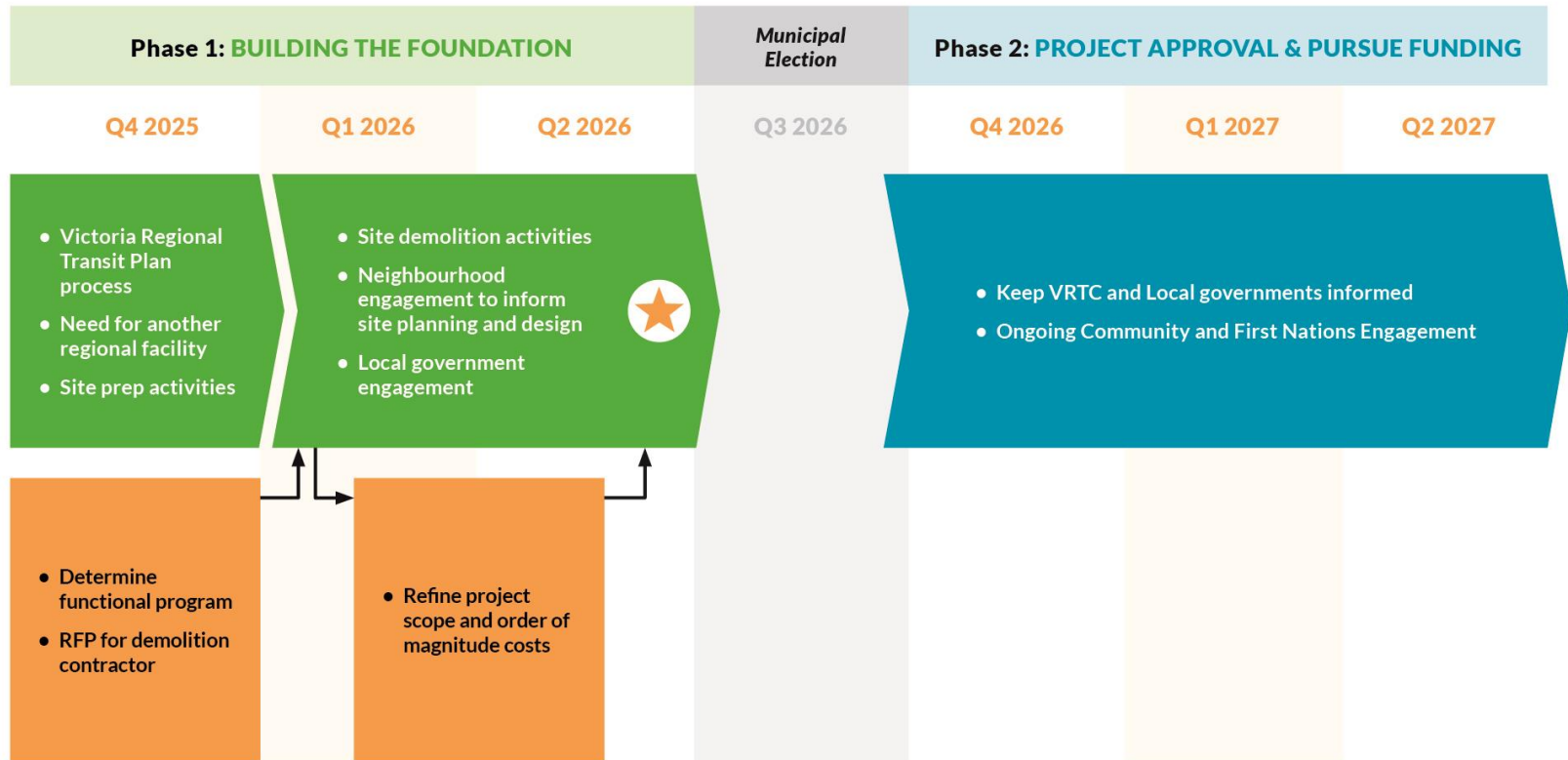
Strategic Path Forward

- Project will be positioned for maximum eligibility and approval under senior government programs
- Significant investment required

Potential funders:

- **Victoria Regional Transit Commission:** Funded through revenue and advertising, property tax transit levy contribution and the *Motor Fuel Tax Act*
- **Provincial Government:** Provincial funding will be pursued through Treasury Board application
- **Federal Government:** Federal funding will be pursued through the Metro Region Agreement, supported by the development and submission of an Integrated Regional Transportation Plan application

Project Engagement



★ VRTC Endorsement to Submit Treasury Board Submission

Next steps

Dates	Activity
January 2026	CRD Transportation Committee - Presentation to introduce the Saanich Transit Centre Project to elected officials
January 2026	Community Engagement
March 2026	VRTC - refinement of the process through CRD Transportation Committee, project scope and initial costing
March 2026	Community Engagement
March 2026	CRD Transportation Committee - Present scope/budget and updates for the Saanich Transit Centre Project
June 2026	VRTC – Engagement update and refined project costs. Seeking formal Approval from the Commission

Recommendation

It is recommended THAT the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC) direct staff to initiate engagement with local government officials regarding the Saanich Transit Centre (STC) project by:

- Presenting the project concept to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Transportation Committee for information; and
- Offering to attend as a delegation to municipal Councils that request a presentation;

AND THAT this engagement occur prior to the VRTC considering formal approval of the STC project.