
SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

PURPOSE

This report on transit-related infrastructure projects in the Victoria Region is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **INFORMATION**.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

handyDART Centre at 2401 Burnside Road

Project planning for the new handyDART centre in View Royal continues to advance. Two early works tender packages are being prepared for site work this fall with full construction mobilization in the spring of 2022. The first will include off-site improvements including improvements to Burnside Rd, realignment of the Galloping Goose, early landscaping and the addition of two new bus shelters. The second will see the creek realignment and site grading pending receipt of Federal and provincial permit applications for the creek realignment. The Environmental Development Permit will be submitted to the Town of View Royal in late July.

The project team continues to advance discussions with Esquimalt and Songhees Nations to inform cultural recognition opportunities on site in the coming month and provide project updates as well as upcoming economic opportunities associated with the above tender packages.

The third phase of public engagement occurred July 2021 and a consultation report will be shared with the Commission in early August. Material shared included site renderings, landscaping, stormwater management, traffic management and neighbourhood integration measures.

Due to significant design challenges, site preparation works is now anticipated to commence in the fall of 2021, with full construction mobilization in the spring of 2022.

University of Victoria Transit Exchange Refurbishment

The University of Victoria (UVIC) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) on June 29, 2021 for the design phase of the UVIC Exchange Refurbishment Project. The project will bring the outstanding portions of the exchange to a similar standard as Phase 1 on the opposite side of Finnerty Road. The project includes replacing bus pads, curbing and paving, new shelters, addressing pedestrian concerns, and adding designated layover bays. The project also enhances three bus stops located on Ring Road at the university.

The RFP submission deadline was July 22, 2021. UVIC is expecting to complete evaluations of the submissions collaboratively with BC Transit to be ready to enter into a contract to complete the design by early 2022 and proceed with construction in summer of 2022. Project completion is planned for September 2022. Additionally, further to terms outlined in the Project Term Sheet, BC Transit and UVIC are finalizing both a Project Agreement and a post project completion operating agreement.

Island Highway Priority Transit Upgrades

A full design has been completed for the Island Highway upgrades to construct transit priority improvements along the Island Highway between the interchange with Highway 1 and 6 Mile Road and Atkins Road in the Town of View Royal, and at the Wale Road intersection in the City of Colwood. The business case for funding approval to move into construction project phase is at a final review status. Once approved an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding request will be submitted to the Province.

PROJECTS IN PLANNING OR DEVELOPMENT

Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan

BC Transit is in the process of developing an update to the 25-Year Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan. The final report will be complete in late summer of 2021 and will provide a roadmap for facility investment and provide key inputs for future project business case(s) and funding application(s). The plan will support the implementation of battery electric buses, provide recommendations to advance additional operations centres and a number of improvements to modernize existing facilities.

The plan is in the process of being finalized with options being refined and evaluated through a multiple account evaluation. BC Transit has received a technical report with recommendations for a number of investments at both the Victoria \$8.7 million dollars and Langford Transit Centres \$5.6 million to modernize transit operations and improve maintenance capacity. These recommended investments include workshop space & equipment, office space, parts storage, battery electric bus charging equipment and are being programmed into the long term capital plan. Design options for a new operating centre are also continuing to be advanced.

Rapid Bus and Transit Priority Projects

There are a number of transit infrastructure planning activities that support advancing transit priority and RapidBus.

- **RapidBus Stations** – An infrastructure exploration agreement is being developed to advance plans for RapidBus Stations on Douglas Street. This agreement is a precursor to a study to develop concepts and costs.
- **Westshore Transit Priority Study** – Phase 2 detail design planning will begin later this year for advancement of transit priority concepts approved in principle for Sooke Rd. and Goldstream Ave. A plan will be developed to complete detailed design process that includes retaining an engineering consultant and working with local government staff to further develop a design that is agreeable to all stakeholders, and is ready for tendering and construction.
- **McKenzie Corridor Study** - An infrastructure exploration agreement is being executed to advance plans for developing McKenzie Ave. with concepts for Transit Priority and RapidBus Stations. Procurement of planning services is underway. The study is expected to begin this fall and take approximately 18 months to complete.

Uptown Mobility Hub Planning

There are two planning initiatives underway to advance the Uptown Multi-Modal Hub.

- **Transit Priority** - MOTI is advancing planning work to develop transit and active transportation priorities and improvements to serve near-term goals that will align with the future development of the Uptown site and not preclude the long-term plan. The plan includes a proposal for bus only lanes on Ravine Rd, RapidBus stations on Highway 1

and expanded bus zone capacity on Carey Rd. This plan will support BC Transit advancing long-term plans for the Uptown Transit Hub and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) opportunities.

- **Transit Oriented Development Plan** - BC Transit/MOTI have initiated a study for a preliminary concept design of a multi-modal hub with TOD. The objective is to establish a concept design to advance to Saanich, VRTC and MOTI for pre-approval. The study will include estimated costs, land implications and commercial feasibility of preferred concept design. Future steps may include a development proposal, stakeholder engagement, and preparing a business case. The project team has also had discussions with British Columbia Transportation Finance Authority (BCTFA) and TransLink on learning/lessons for TOD projects in the Lower Mainland.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Transit Related Projects

There are a number of transit infrastructure initiatives that MOTI is advancing that supports the development of the Victoria Regional Transit System including:

Projects

- **Highway 14 Connie Rd to Glinz Lake Rd Realignment and Park & Ride** – The highway 14 realignment includes a new park & ride near Connie Rd and new transit stops with bus pullouts to improve safety and passenger amenities are under construction.

Planning Studies

- **Highway 1 Bus Priority Planning** – MOTI is advancing planning work along the Douglas Street/Hwy 1 Corridor to support existing BC Transit initiatives. This work includes exploring transit priority treatments that align with the BC Transit priorities identified through the Victoria Transit Future Plan and the South Island Transportation Strategy.
- **Highway 17 Transit Facilities** - MOTI is advancing planning work along the Highway 17 corridor to explore transit priority treatments to support BC Transit Initiatives also identified through the Victoria Transit Future Plan and the South Island Transportation Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receives this report for **INFORMATION**.

Respectfully,

Levi Timmermans
Director, Infrastructure Management