
SUBJECT: PLANNING UPDATE

PURPOSE

This update on transit planning activities in the Victoria Region is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **INFORMATION**.

SERVICE CHANGES

Spring 2021 Seasonal Service Change (Effective April 5, 2021)

The spring seasonal service change provided modifications to service levels and running times to reflect the ongoing change in travel demand and travel times due to COVID-19. New service was added to Route 46 during midday and early evening, later evening service span on Routes 3 and 10. Route 1 changed routing from Humboldt Street onto Fairfield Road. Route 75's schedule was redesigned to offer better connections to Route 72 at Saanichton Exchange.

Summer 2021 Seasonal Service Change (Effective June 28, 2021)

The summer seasonal service change will provide adjustments to service levels on middle and secondary school-oriented routes to match reduced summer demand. Additional planned changes include minor service level changes on Routes 7 and 21 to better match demand and improve schedule efficiency. Finally, Route 53 which will now begin/terminate at Victoria General Hospital rather than Colwood Exchange, route via Thetis Lake year-round, and provide limited commuter service to/from downtown.

Fall 2021 Seasonal Service Change

There are significant service level improvements planned for fall 2021 to align with the anticipated return to in-person classes at Post-Secondary institutions. Service frequency improvements are planned for Routes 4, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 26, 39 and 50, and additional resources will be available for providing flexible, operational overload service based on changing demand conditions throughout the schedule period. Routing changes are planned for Routes 1 and 22 to align with the City of Victoria's Richardson Street and Kings-Haultain Corridor cycling network projects. Finally, further changes to schedules are planned to improve service reliability throughout the system.

PLANNING INITIATIVES

Work undertaken or proposed since the last Commission meeting includes:

Local Area Transit Plans

- The Peninsula Local Area Transit Plan is underway. Initial service and infrastructure options have been developed, initial stakeholder engagement was completed in April and public engagement is planned for June.
- The West Shore Local Area Transit Plan Refresh will begin in late spring 2021 with consultant support. Key outcomes of this plan include better aligning the transit network to recent and anticipated future development and supporting the implementation of RapidBus.

Related Municipal Work and Transit Initiatives

BC Transit participated in a number of local initiatives on behalf of the Commission over the last few months, including the following:

- **RapidBus Implementation Strategy** – This strategy is now complete. BC Transit is working with MOTI on a joint public announcement/release in the near future, and further information will be shared with the VRTC and the public once available.
- **Bus Stop Improvements** – Since the last commission meeting, BC Transit has worked with the City of Langford, District of Saanich, Town of Sidney, District of Oak Bay, Town of View Royal, City of Victoria, District of Sooke, District of Central Saanich, and the Township of Esquimalt to coordinate improvements to stop configuration and layout to improve accessibility and customer experience. In Langford, BC Transit collaborated with staff to propose stop locations and infrastructure upgrades along McCallum Road to serve growing residential areas west of Millstream Road. In View Royal, BC Transit, CRD, and View Royal Staff are working to improve stop locations and facilities in and near Thetis Lake Park as part of the upcoming improvements to Route 53 Colwood Exchange as part of the 2021 summer service change.

Additionally, the BC Transit Bus Shelter Program awarded eleven transit shelters to the following VRTS municipalities:

- District of Saanich
 - District of Oak Bay
 - City of Victoria
 - District of Central Saanich
 - District of Sooke
- **Development Referral Process** – BC Transit receives and responds to development referrals from local governments considering rezoning and large-scale development proposals. BC Transit provides comment on opportunities for transit supportive development, improvements to transit supportive infrastructure such as bus stops and sidewalks, and provides comments on the feasibility of future transit service to the proposed development.

Planning staff have received approximately 24 development referrals since the last Commission Meeting between February and May and provided comment to five local governments.

SERVICE MONITORING
COVID Service Ridership Report

The attached Service Ridership Report provides information on ridership performance. It summarizes ridership over the winter 2021 service period from January 4 to April 4, 2021 and provides some evaluation of ridership trends through the period impacted by the COVID pandemic to April 4, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,

Levi Megenbir
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Attachment: **08a** Winter 2021 Ridership Performance Report