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**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**

The new handyDART centre at 2401 Burnside Road in View Royal supports increasing demands for handyDART services in the region and enables BC Transit’s Low Carbon Fleet Strategy. This federal ICIP funded project will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements and is planned to open in 2023. The initial gasoline fueled fleet will be converted to battery electric starting at opening with the deployment of five electric buses ahead of ongoing conversion of the fleet over the following years. BC Transit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Town of View Royal to meet local development requirements in addition to all Provincial and Federal environmental protection standards.

Design has progressed to 50 per cent (design) with functional room layouts and site parking layout. Site grading and elevations are confirmed, as is the new location of the BC Hydro transmission tower on site. The project results in local realignment of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail and relocation of water main corrosion protection systems, both managed by the Capital Regional District (CRD). Final agreements with CRD are in progress with BC Transit delivering these works. Rogers Communications equipment will move off the site. The design for the realignment of a watercourse within the project site is complete in preparation for permit applications.

The second phase of public engagement occurred April 2021. It shared the preliminary site plan, including building location and rendering as well as the planned stream enhancement and trail improvements. April also saw a meeting of the project Neighbourhood Working Group with demonstrated improvement of public perception of the project compared to the earlier engagements. The next phase of public engagement planned for July 2021 will provide additional detail about the site design including stormwater management, landscaping, streetscape and trail improvements, traffic management, noise and neighbourhood integration measures.

Federal and provincial permit applications have been shared in draft with Indigenous groups for input prior to submission to agencies. The project team is planning to initiate discussions with Esquimalt and Songhees Nations to inform cultural recognition opportunities on site in the coming month.

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

## CNG Fueling and Facility Modifications

As part of the Low Carbon Fleet program and the introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses in Victoria, CNG fueling infrastructure and facility upgrades are in regular service at the Langford Transit Centre (LTC). The CNG scope of work and ancillary works are substantially complete and project close out activities are underway.

## BC Transit Bus Shelter Program

The shelter program receives 40 per cent funding towards eligible costs through the Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). 18 shelters were installed under the 20/21 program. The 2021/22 program is now underway. A summary of shelters approved within the 2021/22 program is provided in the table below.

Region	Number of Shelters Requested	2021/22 Shelters Approved	Shelters Installed to Date
Saanich	9	4	0
Victoria	7	3	0
Sooke	6	1	0
Oak Bay	1	1	0
Central Saanich	3	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>

## 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 July 2021 and will provide inputs for future project business case(s) to support provincial and federal 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 the existing operations centres. The plan is in the process of being finalized with options being refined and evaluated through a multiple account evaluation.

### 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. 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 developed to advance plans for developing McKenzie Ave. with concepts for Transit Priority and RapidBus Stations. 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, 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