
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**.

SUMMARY

December Seasonal Service Changes (Effective: December 3, 2018)

Overall service levels will be reduced during December to better match reduced ridership demand and enable improvements to schedule reliability. Service reductions primarily include trips oriented to the post-secondary schools because transit ridership is significantly lower when UVic and Camosun are not in full session. The savings in service hours will be re-allocated to the fall and winter times when demand for service is higher. Overload trips will provide additional service to both campuses while class is still in session.

Winter 2019 Service Changes (Effective: January 2, 2019)

Winter changes include seasonal increases in service to match ridership demand and rerouting around Uptown as a way to take advantage of the Douglas Street bus lanes. A service change summary document is attached.

Changes include adjustments to routes serving the Peninsula, Royal Oak and Cordova Bay:

- 30/31 Royal Oak/Downtown
- 32 Royal Oak/Cordova Bay
- 70/71 Downtown/Swartz Bay
- 72 Downtown/Swartz Bay
- 75 Royal Oak/Downtown/Saanichton

Key Benefits:

- Transit priority signal at the Douglas and Carey Road intersection improves route directness and on-time performance
- Supports the region’s Transit Future Plan goal to make Uptown a future transit exchange as well as supporting the rapid transit strategy
- Provides improved transfer opportunities for Westshore routes

SERVICE PLANNING INITIATIVES

The following work was undertaken since the last Commission meeting.

Local Area Transit Plans (LATPs)

2018/19 LATPs (Sooke, Esquimalt/View Royal, Cordova Bay/Broadmead)

Phase 1 of public engagement for the 2018/19 Local Area Transit Plans is complete. Feedback was solicited through an online survey and at open house events in each of the respective plan areas.

Open House Schedule

Plan	Date	Location
Esquimalt & View Royal	September 26	Eagle Creek Plaza
	October 17	CFB Esquimalt
	October 18	Esquimalt Farmers Market
Sooke	October 2	Sooke Park & Ride and Sooke Town Centre
	October 17	SEAPARC and Edward Milne
Cordova Bay/Broadmead	October 9	Royal Oak Exchange
	October 10	Broadmead Village
	October 11	Matticks Farm

In total, 376 people attended the open houses and 862 people completed the online survey.

High level summary of engagement themes:

Cordova Bay/Broadmead

- Improve weekend span and frequency of service on local routes
- Additional direct regional-scale service to downtown Victoria, with an earlier service start to ease crowding, pass-ups and improve opportunities for commuting
- Strong interest in local routes designed to enable access to regional-scale routes at commuting times at Royal Oak Exchange

Esquimalt/View Royal

- Increase frequency and capacity on regional and frequent transit routes
- Improve frequency and span on local routes
- Desire for direct service to key destinations such as UVic, airport, ferries and downtown

Sooke

- Interest in additional direct regional-scale service to Victoria, with earlier starts to ease crowding, pass-ups and improve connection opportunities
- Requests for improved local routes to enable access to regional-scale routes at commuting times and improve access to local destinations
- Concerns around coverage gaps in the Beecher and Spirit Bay area

Workshops with Transit Operators and stakeholders will be held in the new year to develop proposals for service improvements that will inform Phase 2 of public engagement.

Burnside-Tillicum and Jubilee Local Area Transit Plans

- Open houses will be scheduled in the new year to present transit service improvement concepts to the public for input. Both plans will have a final report that will be brought to the Commission.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING INITIATIVES

- **Westshore Transit Priority Study** – The study will commence in January 2019 and is anticipated to be a year-long process. A proponent has been retained to complete this work. The intent of the study is to develop concepts for transit priority on a number of corridors in the Westshore. The concepts will inform the development of a business case for transit priority projects in the Westshore.

Related Municipal Plans and Local Initiatives

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

- **Sooke Council** – Provided an update on the Sooke Local Area Transit Plan
- **UVic Geography Class** – Presentation to UVic Geography students about Transit Planning and the Victoria Regional Transit System
- **City of Victoria** – Vancouver/Wharf/Humboldt cycling facility design review
- **Northwest Transit Exchange** – Attended a transit conference in Spokane, Washington to learn about current trends and best practices
- **Colwood Council and Committee of the Whole** – Presented design concepts for transit priority treatments along the Island Highway Corridor.
- **City of Victoria Active Transportation Advisory Committee** – Provided a bus lane update at the October ATAC meeting
- **Esquimalt Council** – BC Transit staff presented an update on the Esquimalt/View Royal Local Area Transit Plan process. Staff also highlighted 2017/18 initiatives and provided an update regarding initiatives planned for 2018/19.
- **Saanich Climate Action Plan** – Attended a workshop to provide input into GHG targets for the District of Saanich Climate Action Plan
- **CRD and Saanich Active and Safe Routes to School** – Participated in a walkabout at Arbutus Middle School to look at safety and encourage sustainable transportation use
- **Shelbourne Cycling Improvements** – Reviewed Shelbourne Valley Corridor 40 per cent design documents with Saanich staff and consultants
- **Sooke Transportation Master Plan** – Participated in a design charrette
- **Development Referrals** -Transit's development referral process enables local governments to send larger-scale development, or rezoning proposals, to BC Transit for comment. From August 30 through December 7, BC Transit has received and commented on 24 development referrals from four municipal partners (Colwood-1, Langford-10, Sooke-5, View Royal-4, Saanich-4);

RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,

Lindsay Taylor
Senior Transit Planner

Attachments: Winter 2019 Service Plan