



November 5, 2018

Mr. Michael Hill
Community Development Coordinator
Engineering and Public Works – Downtown Coordinator
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mr. Hill,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Hotel Association of Greater Victoria to urge BC Transit to extend the busier late night transit routes until 3:00 AM on Fridays and Saturdays.

Downtown Victoria is a popular destination for our visitors and residents of Greater Victoria. Bar and night club patrons empty on to the streets at 2:00am with only one transportation option, an overwhelmed taxi service. This also can apply to lounges and events like weddings and dinner/dances in hotels and free standing event centres. My colleagues that manage hotels (10 properties) on or near the bar zones can attest to the challenges they have with dispersing crowds of people every Friday and Saturday night. This causes grief for people that live downtown and for visitors of our city.

Secondly, affordable housing in British Columbia is a challenge for many industries including the hospitality sector. Consequently, many hospitality workers live well outside of the downtown because of high rents and limited availability of housing. Similar to the bar patrons, our employees cannot access public transportation when their shift ends unless they own a car and have access to parking.

It would seem logical and civilized to consider a schedule extension in a tourist city when most of the hotels and the night life are located in the downtown core. The property tax base is significant as is the number of people that are employed in the industry making it a reasonable venture for BC Transit to support.

Please consider adjusting your budget to accommodate an extension to 3:00am on Fridays and Saturdays.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reid James", is written over a horizontal line.

Reid James, Chairperson, Hotel Association of Greater Victoria

cc: Mayor and Council, C. Holt - Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of Greater Victoria