

Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Chair and Members

November 26, 2024

#15

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Update

PURPOSE

To provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (“the Commission”) with an update on transit infrastructure planning and construction activities in the Victoria Region. This report is presented to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission for **INFORMATION**.

ON-STREET TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Active Infrastructure Projects

- **Island Highway Transit Priority Upgrades:** The Island Highway Transit Priority Project is being advanced to support the West Shore RapidBus Strategy between the intersection of the Highway 1 exit and entrance ramps in View Royal, and Wale Road in Colwood. The scope of the project includes transit queue jump lanes, bike lanes, sidewalk widening, accessible wheelchair ramps, intersection improvements, crosswalk signage and road painting, street lighting and traffic signals upgrades. A funding application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) was approved in August 2023 for this project. The View Royal section of the project is under construction, with estimated completion in December 2024. The Colwood section of the project is still in the land acquisition phase. Construction will commence once negotiations with private landowners are complete.
- **Bus Shelter Program:** The BC Transit Bus Shelter Program is a province-wide cost sharing program (including provincial and federal funding contributions) to assist municipalities in acquiring new BC Transit-branded shelters with a standardized look, feel and function. The program included the following shelter roll-out for the VRTS:
 - In 2023/24, eight shelters were installed while five shelters were delayed and have been added to the next program year
 - In 2024/25, 25 shelters are approved and planned for installation. Currently, the vendor is procuring materials and local government partners are getting the sites ready. These shelters will be installed in the second half of 2024 & first half of 2025
 - The 2025/26 program launched in August 2024 with a ‘call for applications’ from local government partners by January 2025. Applications are currently being accepted

TRANSIT FACILITY PROJECTS

Active Infrastructure Projects

- **handyDART Centre at 2401 Burnside Road** – The final phase of the building construction is well underway with 90 per cent of exterior siding complete on all buildings, and interior fit-out completion ranging from 60 per cent (Service Island) to 90 per cent (Administration) complete. In addition, curbing, asphaltting and line painting are well underway and will be completed by mid-November, with building commissioning to commence shortly afterwards. Substantial completion of the facility is forecasted for late February 2025. A community engagement pop-up event was held on November 17, 2024. This event was co-hosted with the Town of View Royal and featured the new park space made available to the Town through the facility project. Through this event, plans were unveiled for the new park space and an update was provided to the community on the final landscaping plans for the facility. Collaboration with the New Roads Therapeutic Centre has resulted in the residents building 40 bird houses with wood recycled from the handyDART site. An event will be hosted in December with a nearby school to educate them on the types of birds that will live in the houses and how to identify them. Under guidance from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, the students will paint the birdhouses and these birdhouses will later be installed at a joint event with the Town of View Royal. The project team is working with the Esquimalt Nation to plan the naming ceremony for the new creek, exploring options for a 'Call for Artists' and to consider options for naming the new facility.

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