

Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Chair and Members

March 11, 2025

#13

SUBJECT: Planning Update

PURPOSE

To provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (“the Commission”) with an update on transit service planning in the Victoria Region **FOR INFORMATION.**

1. TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

Spring 2025 Service Change

Effective April 14, 2025, the spring service change includes the following:

- Service will be seasonally reduced to better align with the lower ridership demand from post-secondary education institutions, including Routes 4, 7, 12, 14, 15, 21, 26, 39, and 51
- Service level and vehicle capacity improvements will be made on routes with tourism-driven demand from BC Ferries and Butchart Gardens, including Routes 70, 72, 75, and 81
- New bus stops will be added for Route 49 along Bear Mountain Parkway
- Minor schedule adjustments will be made to improve service reliability on Routes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7/21, 10, 11, 12, 32, 39, 47, 48, 52, 61, 65, 70, 71, and 95
- Temporary detours will be implemented for Routes 32, 70 and 71 in the northbound direction via Saanich Road instead of Ravine Way, between May and June to accommodate the Highway 17/Ravine Way Transit and Active Transportation project
- Minor adjustments will be made to weekday trip times on Route 72 and to service levels on Routes 24, 46, and 51 in response to public feedback and service demand
- Route 76 will be seasonally discontinued for the spring and summer

Service reductions in the spring allow us to provide additional service in seasons with higher ridership demand.

Summer 2025 Service Change

Effective June 30, 2025, the summer service change includes the following:

- Trips across various routes meeting K-12 school times will be seasonally removed for the summer
- Minor schedule adjustments for routes serving Highway 1 (including Route 95) to address the year-long temporary loss of the northbound Highway 1 bus lane associated with the Galloping Goose Regional Trail overpass project at Tillicum Road
- Minor seasonal service level adjustments will be made for the summer on Route 75 to better align service with demand

2. TRANSIT SERVICE PLANNING INITIATIVES

Victoria Regional Transit Plan

A Request for Proposals (RFP) process is scheduled to launch in April 2025 to contract consulting support for the Victoria Regional Transit Plan. The plan is still targeting a 12-month process with an anticipated Spring 2026 completion date.

Beyond replacing the outdated 2011 Transit Future Plan, the Victoria Regional Transit Plan is planned to be a key input into the development of an Integrated Regional Plan, which is required to secure funding for the Metro-Region Agreement funding stream of the new Canada Public Transit Fund. Figure 1 below represents the relationship between the upcoming Victoria Regional Transit Plan, the Integrated Regional Plan, and other existing and planned regional and local government planning initiatives.

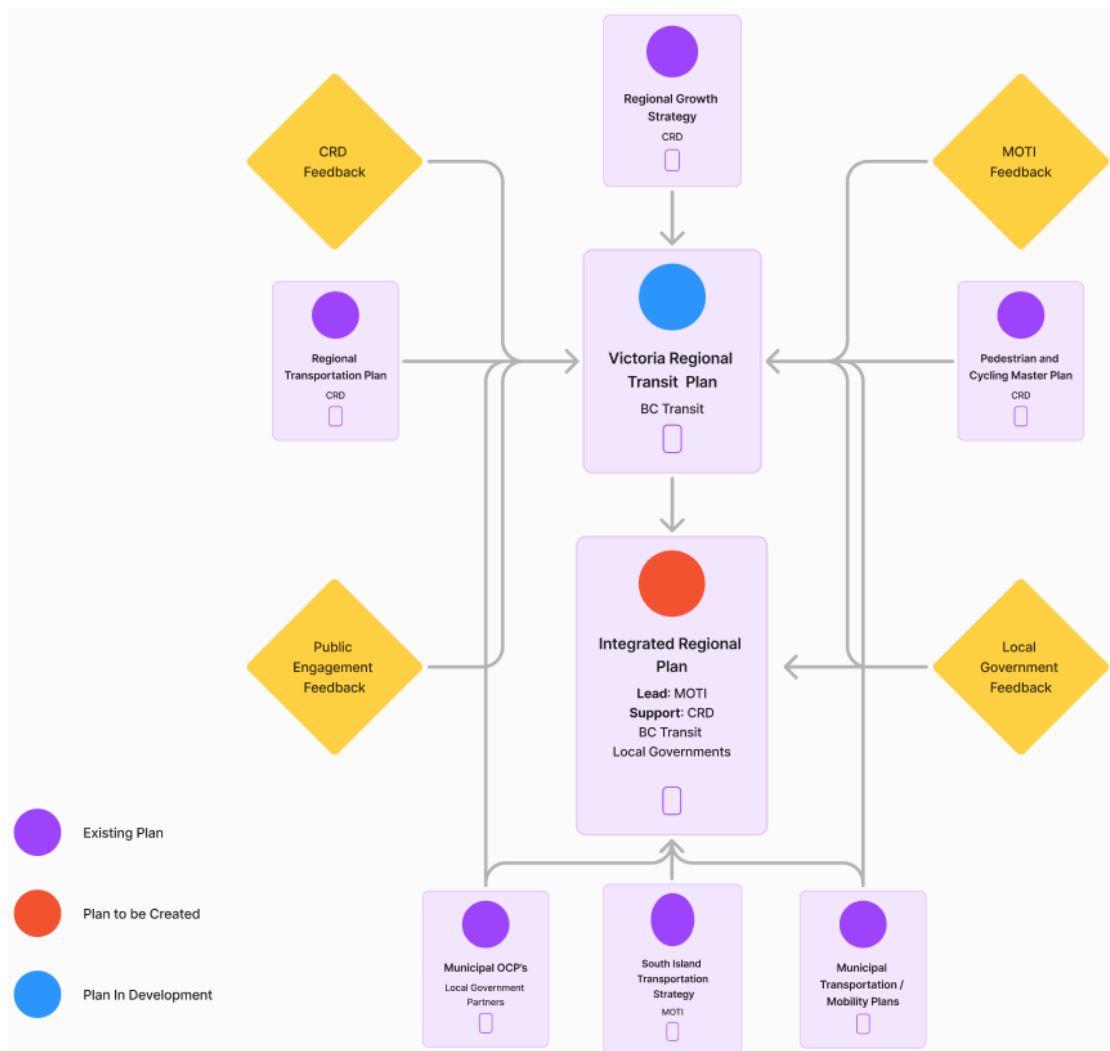


Figure 1: Victoria Regional Transit Plan Relationship Map

Local Area and Corridor Transit Plans (LATP)

Tillicum/McKenzie Corridor Transit Plan

The Tillicum/McKenzie Corridor Transit Plan is nearly complete and will be brought to the Commission for endorsement on June 17, 2025. This timeline will allow staff to ensure there is alignment between this Plan and the District of Saanich's Quadra McKenzie Plan.

Fall 2025 Service Change Engagement

Engagement is being planned between April 1 and 11, 2025 to support the Fall 2025 service change.

Proposed changes include:

- Adjustments to Peninsula local transit service to improve service reliability, and;
- Route 51 changes to align with the West Shore Local Area Transit Plan, improve AM peak travel times, and support the opening of the new West Shore Post-Secondary Campus.

Engagement will include an online survey and an open house event at the Mary Winspear Centre on the Peninsula and at the Langford Transit Exchange.

Sooke Transit Service Reallocation Review

Based on previous Commission direction, several service reallocation options have been developed to improve transit service within the Sooke area. Public engagement is planned for May 2025 to support a possible January 2026 implementation.

Other Planning Work

Referrals – Referral-related work undertaken or proposed since the last Commission meeting includes:

- **Bus Stop Improvements** – BC Transit continues to work closely with Local Government Partners within the Victoria Region to coordinate improvements to stop configurations and layout to improve accessibility and customer experience
- **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 55 development referrals between October 2024 and January 2025 and provided feedback to seven Local Governments.

Service Monitoring

- **Ridership Performance Report** – Planning regularly monitors service performance against the service standards and performance guidelines identified in the 2013/14 Service Review document. Regular performance monitoring allows for a better alignment between service levels and ongoing changes in demand and travel patterns

The attached Ridership Performance Report (#13a) provides information on ridership performance over the Fall 2024 service period from September 2 to December 8, 2024, and provides information on historical ridership and service reliability trends up to December 8, 2024.

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