

Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Chair and Members

June 17, 2025

#12

SUBJECT: Routing Changes Planned for January 2026 Service Change

PURPOSE

To provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (“the Commission”) with information on the proposed January 2026 routing changes for **APPROVAL** to be included in the January 2026 service change.

DISCUSSION

1. TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

These routing changes align with the priorities outlined in the approved 2025/26 Annual Service Plan and include recommended changes from the Sooke Transit Service Reallocation Review, as requested by the Commission in the September 10, 2024 meeting:

- Changes to several Peninsula local routes to improve service reliability:
 - Route 81 adjustment to interline with the existing Route 75, addressing service reliability challenges and improving connections between the Peninsula, the Keating Business District and Victoria. This proposed change also improves weekend service on Route 81.
 - Routes 82 and 87 combined to create a new Route 87 Tsawout/Sidney via Dean Park.
 - Addresses service reliability challenges on both existing routes and improved connections with Route 72.
 - Improves service to Tsawout First Nation from 2.5 weekday round trips to 5.5 trips.
 - Improved connections between Tsawout First Nation and other key destinations on the Peninsula.
 - Slight reduction in weekday peak service on Lochside Drive between Mount Newton X-Road and McTavish Exchange, but improved service frequency on weekends.
 - Adjustment to Route 88 to improve service reliability to YYJ and access to West Sidney.
- Separate the existing Route 39 Westhills / UVIC into two distinct routes to improve service reliability, efficiency, and to better align service with class start times at Camosun and the University of Victoria (UVIC).
 - Route 38 Westhills/Interurban/ Royal Oak
 - Route 39 UVic/Royal Oak/Interurban

- Extend Route 51 to Westhills and realign to improve speed, service reliability, and connections between Langford and UVIC, including the new West Shore Campus on Goldstream and Jacklin.
 - This change includes added midday and early evening service to retain an all-day, one-seat ride between the West Shore and UVic in alignment with the proposed change to Route 39.
 - Route 51 is proposed to serve the same stops as the Route 95 RapidBus in the West Shore, aligning with Route 51's current limited-stop policy on McKenzie Ave.
- Adjust Route 65 to provide commuter transit service to the underserved portion of north-east Sooke in the Arranwood/Steeple Chase neighbourhood.
 - Based on significant support through engagement, this routing change would also include a reallocation of two AM and two PM peak trips from Routes 61 to Route 65.
- Minor adjustment to Route 72 to improve operational speed and reliability around Uptown, aligning with the completion of the Ravine Ave dedicated transit lane.

The proposed changes to the Peninsula local routes, Routes 39, 51, and 65 were further supported by public engagement undertaken from April 22 to May 4. Routing maps and a summary of the public engagement results are included in Appendix 13a.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission receive this report and **APPROVE** the routing changes planned for the January 2026 service change.

Prepared by: Levi Megenbir

Position: Manager of Service Planning

Date prepared: May 20, 2025

Approved by: Christy Harrold

Position: Vice President, Strategy, Planning
and Public Affairs

Date reviewed: June 5, 2025