

Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Chair and Members

June 17, 2025

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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 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 signal upgrades. The construction of the View Royal section of the project was completed in March 2025. 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 the 2024/25 program year, 26 shelters are approved and planned for installation. Currently, the vendor is fabricating shelters and coordinating installation dates with local government partners. Installation of these shelters has begun, and completion is planned for later in 2025.
 - In the 2025/26 program year, applications have been approved for shelters at 38 locations. Letters of agreement have been sent to local government partners for signatures. The vendor is preparing the order of materials for shelter fabrication.

Infrastructure Studies

- **Downtown Douglas Street:** In collaboration with City of Victoria, the next phase of the Planning and Design for the Downtown Douglas Street project was recently initiated. A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed to confirm the scope and delivery of the planning and design project with the next steps being preparation of documents for procurement of engineering services. The purpose of the project is to develop an updated design for Douglas Street that aligns with the RapidBus strategy, with a focus on the

segment between Belleville Street and Caledonia Avenue. The project scope includes bus lanes, RapidBus stations, local bus stops and renewed street infrastructure.

- **McKenzie RapidBus Corridor Improvements:** In collaboration with the District of Saanich, the next phase of the Planning and Design for the McKenzie Avenue Corridor project was recently initiated. A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed to confirm the scope and delivery of the planning and design project with the first step being the development of an Engagement and Communications Strategy. The project scope includes bus lanes, RapidBus stations, local bus stops and renewed street infrastructure.
- **Sidney Transit Hub:** In collaboration with the Town of Sidney, the next phase of Planning and Design for the Sidney Transit Hub project was recently initiated. Sidney Council endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding for the scope and delivery of the planning and design project on April 29th. Procurement of engineering services are underway, and a stakeholder engagement plan is being developed. The purpose of the project is to establish a transit hub in Sidney that will allow for efficient RapidBus service to/from Sidney and to create more local bus bays so that local bus service can become more frequent.
- **Wadams Way Transit Hub:** The Sooke Local Area Plan identified the need for a new exchange to increase service to/from Sooke as well as to establish local transit within Sooke. In collaboration with the District of Sooke, a design has been developed for a new transit hub on Wadams Way adjacent to the library. The exchange will support increased bus capacity and include new sidewalks and transit shelters. The design is planned to be brought to Sooke Council for approval principle on June 9, followed by a request to the Commission for funding in fall 2025.

Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) Studies

- **Uptown Transit Priority –** MoTT is currently constructing transit and active transportation improvements that support near-term RapidBus Strategy objectives that align with the future development of the Uptown site and do not preclude the long-term plan. The improvements include a bus lane on Ravine Way, RapidBus Stations on Highway 1 and expanded bus zone capacity on Carey Road. This plan aligns with long-term plans for the Uptown Transit Hub and transit-oriented development opportunities. Construction is planned to conclude in late 2025.

TRANSIT FACILITY PROJECTS

Active Infrastructure Projects

- **handyDART Centre at 2401 Burnside Road –** The grand opening ceremony for the project was held March 28, and the facility was fully handed over to the operator on April 17th. Minor concerns from the View Royal community regarding noise from gate operations has been resolved with no further concerns about building operations raised since full-time operations commenced, and the community engagement will be concluding following a final neighbourhood working group meeting and lesson learned session. The project team continues to work with the Esquimalt Nation to plan the naming ceremony for the new creek

and to consider options for naming the new facility. Indigenous art opportunities are being explored through a draft Call for Artists process.

- **Saanich Transit Centre** – Planning for the Saanich Transit Centre (STC) includes Phase 1A, which prepares the site for construction, and Phase 1B, which is the construction of the facility on the prepared site.

Phase 1A: Project consultant services for site investigation were awarded to McElhanney Ltd. and the environmental services to Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Inc. Preliminary site investigations are 90% complete with positive results noting minimal soils requiring remediation and low volume of materials in building structures requiring hazmat removal. Community outreach has commenced with immediate neighbours and a presentation to a local residents' association is scheduled. The draft results of the site investigations will be communicated to Indigenous communities to provide an opportunity for review and input.

Phase 1B: A strategic workshop was held on May 13th with the Commission to discuss the transit system's functional needs for a new facility, scope options, affordability, and timing as it relates to progressing the project forward. The project will require a business plan to be prepared in collaboration with Infrastructure BC for provincial funding consideration, and will further refine the need, scope, schedule and budget.

- **Langford Transit Centre Upgrades** – The active Langford Transit Centre modernization project was developed to support the implementation of the Transit Facility Master Plan and received federal funding approval in fall 2023. This project optimizes operations to increase maintenance capacity. Stantec was awarded the design services for upgrades at the Langford Transit Centre, with the option to extend the contract to support continuous improvements at this facility until 2030. Workshops were conducted to update the Master Plan and Phase 1 construction scope were confirmed, ensuring long-term goals for the Langford Transit Center are implemented progressively. Conceptual design and costs estimates are being progressed and design work to be completed into the fall.

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