
SUBJECT: VICTORIA REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM FARE REVIEW

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) with supporting information to initiate a fare review. This report is presented to the Commission for **APPROVAL**.

BACKGROUND

On June 17, 2025, the Commission was presented with a five-year fare strategy to review the expected process for future fare changes and how the introduction of Umo, BC Transit’s new electronic fare technology, may impact future fare reviews. As a part of the five-year fare strategy, it was recommended that at the Commissions’ direction, a fare review may be initiated at the September Commission meeting to allow for a fare change in 2026.

DISCUSSION

BC Transit recommends a fare review in 2026 for the Victoria Regional Transit System to include a Concession 30-Day pass price increase as a priority, as the current discount provided is currently below BC Transit’s pricing recommendations. At the direction of the Commission, BC Transit can also evaluate fare options that include increases to the Single Ride and Adult Pass fare.

If a fare review is initiated from this report, BC Transit does not recommend any public consultation take place as the most recent fare review in 2023 included public consultation. BC Transit believes the recent consultation was sufficient and can support a more abbreviated fare review process.

As BC Transit is working toward the launch of credit and debit tap payments and is continuing to analyze data post-transition to Umo, BC Transit does not recommend including multi-year fare change recommendations for consideration in this fare review. As outlined in the five-year fare strategy, a future fare review can harness the usage patterns of customers post credit and debit tap launch to inform multi-year incremental fare changes for 2027 and beyond.

Fare Review Considerations

Single Ride Fares

BC Transit is recommending that if Single Ride fare increases are a consideration of the 2026 fare review, Single Ride fares continue to follow the existing standard of \$0.25 cent increases. This is due to the absence of sufficient Umo data and the pending introduction of credit and debit tap.

Pass Products

BC Transit currently has the ability to harness Umo data to provide analysis on potential fare changes for pass products. Pricing recommendations for pass products will consider the average number of trips taken by riders to identify the appropriate price point at which riders are incentivized to purchase a pass product instead of paying for their daily travel using Cash Balance.

Cost Recovery Target

Fare revenues collected are used to fund the transit service delivered and as such are a form of cost recovery for the Commission. With the increased availability of data and improved pricing flexibility through Umo, there exists the opportunity for the Commission to determine what fare revenue cost recovery rate is suitable and enable BC Transit staff to present fare pricing recommendations that work towards that target to ensure the continued sustainable funding of transit services. As part of this 2026 fare review, BC Transit can provide an analysis of industry standard cost recovery percentages in similarly sized transit systems to help inform any direction.

Schedule

If a fare review is initiated, BC Transit will bring forward a finalized fare review with potential fare change options for consideration in early 2026. If a fare change is approved, BC Transit recommends a July 2026 fare change date to align with planned service changes already scheduled for this time.

Summary

BC Transit is seeking input from the Commission on the direction of the proposed fare review, with a recommendation of increasing the Concession 30-Day Pass. At the Commission's direction, the fare review may also include fare increase options for the Single Ride and Adult 30-Day Pass.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission receive this report and **APPROVE** initiating the fare review process for the Victoria Regional Transit System.

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