

Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Chair and Members

September 9, 2025

#13

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 signals upgrades. The View Royal section of the project is in service, with construction substantially completed in June 2025 and fully complete in early Q3 (October-December) 2025. The Colwood section of the project is still in the land acquisition phase. Construction in Colwood 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 Victoria Regional Transit System (VRTS):
 - In the 2024/25 program year, 10 of 24 approved shelters have been installed, with the remainder planned for Q3 2025 and Q4 (January-March) 2026
 - In the 2025/26 program year, applications have been approved for shelters at 32 locations through seven Local Government Partners. Letters of agreement have been signed and purchase orders issued for all approved shelters. The vendor is procuring materials for shelter fabrication and planning the installation schedule for Q4 2026

- **Westshore RapidBus Stations:** BC Transit is progressing planning and design work for 23 new RapidBus stations in Langford, Colwood, View Royal, and Victoria to support the Westshore RapidBus Line. RapidBus stations are higher capacity bus stops with additional passenger amenities and Blink branding opportunities. This infrastructure is important to make transit more attractive and accessible by providing passenger waiting areas and pedestrian connections. Procurement for design services is complete and BC Transit has reengaged municipal staff on project planning. Future steps would include development of a business case and securing funding from the Commission and Province for funding of construction of the RapidBus Stations.

Infrastructure Studies

- **Downtown Douglas Street:** In collaboration with the City of Victoria, the next phase of the planning and design for the Downtown Douglas Street project was recently initiated. A Memorandum of Understanding was executed to confirm the scope and delivery of the planning and design project, and the City of Victoria is currently leading procurement of design 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 transit priority, 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 29, 2025. Public and stakeholder engagement is currently underway, with procurement of design services to follow. 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 and from the District of 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 was supported by Sooke Council on June 9, 2025, and is planned to be brought to the Commission for a funding request at a future meeting.

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.
- **Uptown Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)** – MoTT is continuing to develop plans for a Transit Oriented Development and Transit Hub at Uptown in Saanich. The Province finalized purchase of the properties at 3657 Harriet Road and 28 Crease Avenue in April 2024. This project aligns with RapidBus planning along Highway 1 as well as the future McKenzie Corridor RapidBus line. To date, MoTT has completed early engagement with First Nations, stakeholder and the public to gather input on the types of housing, amenities, and active transportation infrastructure that could be integrated into the design. Further conceptual planning is underway with support from BC Transit and will occur Q3 2025 and into 2026.
- **Highway 1 Improvements** – MoTT is currently advancing three infrastructure projects along Highway 1:
 - **Bus on Shoulder Lanes** – The Highway 1 Bus on Shoulder McKenzie to Colwood project is building new bus-on-shoulder lanes between the McKenzie interchange and the Colwood interchange, ending at the Island Highway intersection. It will complete the Rapid Transit corridor along Highway 1, connecting downtown Victoria to the Station Road Transit Exchange and includes new RapidBus stops at the Helmcken Interchange. Recent works include the removal of the existing noise wall, foundation excavation, tree clearing, and the widening of Burnside Road near the Galloping Goose multi-use bridge
 - **Colquitz River Bridges** – The Highway 1 Colquitz River Bridges Widening project will widen and seismically retrofit both existing two-lane bridges over Burnside Road. Construction began Q2 (July-September) 2024 and continues to progress. Recent works include demolition works for the North Bridge deck, excavation of the North Bridge West abutment, and hydroseeding of the slopes along the South Bridge. Construction is forecasted to be complete by Q3 of 2025
 - **Tillicum Active Transportation Bridge Project** – The Tillicum Active Transportation Bridge Project will construct an active transportation bridge to provide a safer and more seamless commute for active transportation users along the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. The scope of the project includes a new RapidBus Station on Highway 1 in the westbound direction. The project is currently in the pre-tender phase with design work substantially complete. Construction is expected to start in early 2026 and be completed by Q2 2027. The construction project will require temporary closure of the westbound bus lane at the Tillicum intersection; BC Transit is working with MoTT to minimize construction impacts to transit riders.

TRANSIT FACILITY PROJECTS

Active Infrastructure Projects

- **handyDART Centre at 2401 Burnside Road** – The building and site are in service and in the process of addressing deficiencies and warranty items as they arise. Community engagement concluded following a final neighbourhood working group meeting August 11, 2025. 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: The majority of preliminary site investigation activities are completed, and draft reports have been shared with the Nations for feedback prior to posting to the website. The remaining investigation is bedrock mapping analysis to better calculate soil removal volumes. Community engagement is ongoing, including a recent information booth at local and ‘pop-up’ community events in mid-August. A Request for Proposal for Construction Manager is underway for release in October 2025 and will include requirements for Indigenous employment opportunities.

Phase 1B: The Treasury Board business plan for Phase 1B is being prepared in collaboration with Infrastructure BC. The design team and quantity surveyor are progressing an indicative design that establishes the budget for the Phase 1B funding request. Strategic discussions on submission date timeline and affordability are ongoing.

- **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 ICIP funding approval in Q3 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 the Phase 1 construction scope was confirmed, ensuring long-term goals for the Langford Transit Center are implemented progressively. The project is in the design phase. As of June 9th, 2025, 30% of the design work for Phase 1 has been developed, including the addition of an administrative office area on the second floor of the new shop building. The next step is to advance the detailed design to 60% and obtain a Class B cost estimate in Q3 2025 to support a more accurate budget projection.

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