





June 19, 2025

Via email to: <u>Victoria\_Commission@bctransit.com</u>

Victoria Regional Transit Commission, BC Transit 520 Gorge Road East Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

**Dear Commission Members:** 

## **Re: HandyDART Booking System**

At the Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee (the "Committee") meeting held May 22, 2025, the Committee passed the following recommendation:

"That the Councils of the District of North Saanich, the Town of Sidney, and the District of Central Saanich send a letter to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and BC Transit to ensure the recent changes to service levels for HandyDART booking systems guarantee the two weeks in advance to reserve a drop-off and pick-up within a 30 minute window to permit persons with disabilities to allow access to not just appointments but also other community participation and inclusion".

On June 9, 2025, at their respective Regular meetings, the Councils of District of North Saanich, the Town of Sidney, and the District of Central Saanich, approved the above-noted recommendation.

On behalf of the District of North Saanich, Town of Sidney, and the District of Central Saanich Councils, we are writing to offer full support in requesting that the recent changes to service levels for HandyDART booking systems guarantee the two weeks in advance to reserve a drop-off and pick-up within a 30 minute window to permit persons with disabilities to allow access to appointments, community participation, and inclusion.

The Town of Sidney, the District of Central Saanich, and the District of North Saanich remain committed to improving the livability, accessibility, and inclusivity of people who live, work, and play on the Saanich Peninsula, supporting removal and prevention of barriers to the full and equal participation of people with disabilities.

We urge you to prioritize this provision of essential service for our community members who rely on it in their everyday lives.

Respectfully,

Sandi Nelson, Corporate Officer

Town of Sidney

Emilie Gorman, Director of Corporate Services/

Corporate Officer

District of Central Saanich

Lyndsay Alexander

Lyndsay Alexander, Deputy Corporate Officer

District of North Saanich

Copy: Mayor and Council of:

Town of View Royal

Town of Esquimalt

District of Oak Bay

City of Colwood

City of Langford

District of Metchosin

District of Sooke

District of Highlands

District of Saanich

City of Victoria