

Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Chair and Members

November 18, 2025

#17

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:**
 - Project Scope: The Island Highway Transit Priority Project supports 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.
 - Project Update: Land acquisition activities are ongoing for the Colwood segment of the project. Construction in Colwood will commence once negotiations with private landowners are complete.
- **Bus Shelter Program:**
 - Project Scope: 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 includes the following shelter roll-out for the VRTS shelters being installed this year and planned for the following year:
 - Project Update:
 - In the 2024/25 program year, 10 of 24 approved shelters have been installed, with the remainder planned for Q3 and Q4.
 - 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.

- **Westshore RapidBus Stations:**

- Project Scope: 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 and are important to make transit more attractive and accessible by providing passenger waiting areas and pedestrian connections.
- Project Update: Design services are underway, and BC Transit has re-engaged municipal staff on project planning. Future steps would include development of a business case and securing funding from the Commission and Province for RapidBus Station construction.

On-street Planning and Design Projects

- **Downtown Douglas Street:**

- Project Scope: In collaboration with City of Victoria, the Planning and Design phase of the Downtown Douglas Street project has been initiated. 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.
- Project Update: The City of Victoria has procured a design consultant and the design development phase started in October.

- **McKenzie RapidBus Corridor Improvements:**

- Project Scope: In collaboration with the District of Saanich, the next phase of the Planning and Design for the McKenzie Avenue Corridor project has been initiated. The project scope includes transit priority, RapidBus stations, local bus stops and renewed street infrastructure.
- Project Update: 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.

- **Sidney Transit Hub:**

- Project Scope: In collaboration with the Town of Sidney, the Planning and Design phase of the Sidney Transit Hub project has been initiated. 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.
- Project Update: Preliminary Public and stakeholder engagement is concluding, and the procurement of a design consultant is expected to be complete in November.

- **Sooke Transit Hub (Wadams Way):**

- Project Scope: 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.
- Project Update: No update, the design was supported by Sooke Council on June 9 and is planned to be brought to the Commission for a funding request at a future meeting.

Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) Initiatives

- **Uptown Transit On-street Transit Improvements**

- Project Scope: The improvements include a bus lane on Ravine Way, RapidBus Stations on Highway 1 and expanded bus zone capacity on Carey Road.
- Project Update: Transit and active transportation improvements are substantially complete and in service.

- **Uptown Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) –**

- Project Scope: 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.
- Project Update: To date MoTT has completed early engagement with First Nations, stakeholders 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 this Fall and into 2026.

- **Highway 1 Improvements –** MoTT is currently advancing three infrastructure projects along Highway 1:

- **Bus on Shoulder Lanes**

- Project Scope: 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.
- Project Update: Recent works include the development of a retaining wall, preparation for tree planting in Cuthbert Holmes Park, installation of new transit shelters at the McKenzie/Admirals Interchange, tree clearing, and the widening of Burnside Road near the Galloping Goose multi-use bridge. Later this month rock removal of the north side of Highway 1 will begin to occur.

- **Colquitz River Bridges**
 - Project Scope: The Highway 1 Colquitz River Bridges Widening project will widen and seismically retrofit both existing two-lane bridges over Burnside Road.
 - Project Updates: 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 of a new westbound bus stop between Tillicum Rd and the bridge is currently under construction. Construction is forecasted to be complete by the Winter/Spring of 2026.
- **Tillicum Active Transportation Bridge Project**
 - Project Scope: 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.
 - Project Update: The project is currently in the pre-tender phase with design work substantially complete. Construction is expected to start in mid 2026 and be completed by summer 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

- **Saanich Transit Centre**
 - Project Scope: Planning for the Saanich Transit Centre (STC) includes the development of a Provincial Treasury Board Business Plan, public engagement preparing the site for construction, and ultimately the construction of the facility on the prepared site at a future date.
 - Project Update:
 - **Treasury Board business plan:** The business and project plan is being prepared in collaboration with Infrastructure BC. The design team and quantity surveyor are progressing an indicative design that establishes the budget and project phasing strategy is being developed to support medium and long-term transit service improvement objectives.
 - **Engagement:** Community engagement is ongoing, including recent information booths at local community events. Two on-site open houses were held in August, engaging approximately 45 neighbours to raise awareness about the long-term redevelopment of the five properties and collect questions and concerns about traffic, lighting, and operations. Staff also presented to two community associations and connected with more than 150 attendees at a local event. Starting this Fall, BC Transit will expand engagement with local governments, First Nations, and the public to discuss

regional transit priorities. In collaboration with the Victoria Regional Transit Plan (VRTP) planning team, this dialogue will highlight the need for a new operations and maintenance facility.

- **Site Prep:** Majority of preliminary site investigation activities completed with the exception of bedrock mapping analysis to better calculate soil removal volumes. Request for proposal for Construction Manager underway for release in October and will include requirements for Indigenous employment opportunities.

- **Langford Transit Centre Upgrades**

- Project Scope: The Langford Transit Centre modernization project includes facility site improvements that include a new shop building, detail cleaning area for buses, maintenance bay improvements and administrative space as identified in the Transit Facility Master Plan to support existing transit services, future transit service expansion, and electrification. Project Update: The 60% design and cost estimates have been completed. Value engineering process is underway this fall to find potential cost savings and refine the cost estimates.

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