

**DATE:** March 10, 2026

**PREPARED FOR:** Victoria Regional Transit Commission

**PREPARED BY:** James Wadsworth, Manager Infrastructure Planning

**SUBJECT:** Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Update

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victoria Regional Transit System continues to advance a wide range of infrastructure initiatives with major progress underway on RapidBus planning and design, municipal transit hubs, Highway One improvements, and facility upgrades. Across the region, projects are moving through design, engagement, land acquisition, and early construction stages to support future service expansion, improved reliability, and better passenger amenities.

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## 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 On-street 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: No 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 rollout 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.
- **West Shore 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 West Shore RapidBus Line. RapidBus stations are higher capacity bus stops with additional passenger amenities and Blink branding opportunities. Improved stations 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 to support project planning. The conceptual design has been reviewed by the municipalities and internal stakeholders, and the design engineer is currently reviewing the feedback reviewed. Subsequent steps include progressing the design, development of a business case for RapidBus Station phasing, securing funding approvals, permitting, and construction.

### On-Street Planning and Design Projects

- **Downtown Douglas Street:**
  - Project Scope: In collaboration with City of Victoria, the Planning and Design project is in the conceptual design phase. The design aims to improve transit on Douglas Street through downtown, focusing on the segment between Belleville Street and Herald Street, which currently does not have bus lanes. The project scope includes new bus lanes, RapidBus stations, local bus stops, and renewed street infrastructure.
  - Project Update: The design consultant was onboarded in the fall of 2025, and the functional design process is underway. Multiple options are being evaluated for a revised RapidBus terminus in the Belleville Street area. The City of Victoria Council and the public will receive updates on the design progress in the spring of 2026.
- **McKenzie RapidBus Corridor:**
  - Project Scope: In collaboration with the District of Saanich, the next phase of Planning and Design for the McKenzie Avenue Corridor project is being prepared. The project scope includes transit priority measures, RapidBus stations, local bus stops, and renewed street infrastructure. The scope and schedule of the Planning and Design project have been revised. The project will focus on updating conceptual design, conducting design engagement, and identifying priority elements to advance to 60% design. Engagement on the conceptual design options is scheduled for 2027.
  - Project Update: A Planning and Design Agreement has been developed to confirm the scope and delivery approach for the project, with the near-term steps include the development of an Engagement and Communications Strategy and

procurement of engineering design services. The Commission and the District of Saanich will cost-share \$800,000 on a 50/50 basis. The agreement is ready for execution.

- **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: Design consultants have been secured, and the project has advanced to development of the 30% conceptual design. A design workshop with consultants, BC Transit, and Sidney staff has been held. Design changes are being incorporated to address the feedback from the public engagement conducted in summer 2025.

- **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 VRTC for a funding request at a future meeting.

### Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) Initiatives

- **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: MoTT continues to develop conceptual plans for the site, including property development concepts, transit exchange concepts, an environmental approvals strategy, and a potential procurement approach, targeted for completion by March 2026. Future steps may include development of a business case. BC Transit and other stakeholders continue to be engaged throughout the design process.

- **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, removal of rock on the north side of Highway 1, drainage installation, excavation of the median and construction of the Galloping Goose Trail multi-use bridge superstructure. The transit stop work at the McKenzie/Admirals interchange is now complete.
- **Colquitz River Bridges**
    - Project Scope: The Highway 1 Colquitz River Bridges Widening project will widen the existing eastbound and westbound bridges to provide bus lanes in both directions and seismically retrofit both existing two-lane bridges over Burnside Road.
    - Project Updates: Recent work has focused on the South Colquitz Bridge, including site cleanup, preparation of the north deck extension, and concrete work on the bridge structure. Concrete placement and curing were completed for wingwall improvements. Construction is forecast 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: No update. 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, conducting public and Indigenous engagement, preparing the site through demolition and remediation, and positioning the site for the facility's future construction.
  - Project Update:
    - **Site Preparation (Phase 1):** Phase 1 remains on track. The request for proposal for a Construction Manager is underway and includes requirements for Indigenous employment opportunities as well as sustainability and social procurement initiatives. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in May, with demolition activities commencing in June, and completed in December 2026.
    - **Treasury Board business plan (Phase 2):** Work on the business and project plan continued with Infrastructure BC. An indicative design and draft phasing strategy have been developed to support future transit

service improvements; however, in light of the constrained financial climate, BC Transit is reassessing the plans to best position the project for success. The business plan will be updated to reflect this refined approach and discussed with the Commission at a later date.

- **Engagement (Phase 1 and 2):** Community and Indigenous engagement is ongoing. Staff recently presented project updates to the CRD Transportation Committee, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and the Saanich Community Association Network.

- **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. The project scope has been partially revised. Improvements to the administrative space in the main building were removed from the current phase. Instead, this phase of the project will include reconfiguring the bus yard from angled parking to lane parking, increasing bus parking capacity, and improving daily operations.
- Project Update: The 90% design, value engineering process, and cost estimates have been completed. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for Construction Management closed on February 10. A revision to the 90% design and an updated cost estimate is currently underway to incorporate the recent scope of changes.

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