

Victoria Regional Transit Commission



DATE: September 8, 2026

PREPARED FOR: Victoria Regional Transit Commission

PREPARED BY: James Wadsworth, Manager Infrastructure Planning

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 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: Land acquisition activities are nearing completion for the Colwood segment of the project. Updated detailed drawings are with the City of Colwood staff for final review. 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:
 - A total of 40 shelters were delivered in Q1, 2026:
 - FY2024/25 (Year 5) rollout: 10 installed; 9 pending
 - FY2025/26 (Year 6) rollout: 30 installed; 45 pending
 - In the 2026/27 program year, 87 applications have been approved for shelters at 23 locations. Project Agreements are currently being drafted after which purchase orders will be issued for all approved shelters.

- **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 and a new terminus location at Belmont Market with an operator's washroom. 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: Initial conceptual design work is underway and is incorporating feedback from municipalities and internal stakeholders. 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 the City of Victoria, 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. Multiple options are being evaluated for a revised RapidBus terminus in the Belleville Street area. The functional design is complete and will significantly improve bus speed and reliability through the downtown core. Detailed design has recently started, and the next steps include developing implementation, public engagement and funding plans.

- **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 detailed design.
- Project Update: A Planning and Design Agreement has been developed to confirm the scope and delivery approach for the project. A communications and engagement strategy is being developed that meets both organization's needs and the procurement of planning and engagement services is underway. Public engagement on the issues and opportunities is anticipated to occur in early 2027 and identifying potential corridor improvements will begin afterwards. Multiple phases of engagement are anticipated with the goal of reaching local and regional users of McKenzie Avenue.

- **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: The Town of Sidney's Committee of the Whole approved the 30% conceptual design in June 2026, and the project has advanced to the development of a 60% conceptual design. Further engagement with the Committee of the Whole is planned for September regarding transit plaza amenities. Work is underway to confirm the preferred option for operator washroom delivery.

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

- Project Scope: The Sooke Local Area Plan identified the need for a new exchange to increase service to and 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, 2025 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: The Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) is continuing to develop plans for a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and Transit Hub at Uptown in the District of Saanich. The Province finalized the 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 has established an Uptown TOD Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from MoTT, the District of Saanich, BC Transit, and the Capital Regional District (CRD). The project will be delivered in three phases:
 - **Phase 1 – Area Concept Planning and Rezoning (Current Phase):** Develop an agreement in principle with project partners on the preliminary direction for rezoning and future site development.
 - **Phase 2 – Reference Concept Development:** Confirm the preferred development concept, refine cost estimates, and determine the project delivery approach.
 - **Phase 3 – Procurement and Construction:** Advance the project through procurement and construction.

Recent work has focused on reviewing transit exchange concepts, potential site access options, and property development concepts, while incorporating stakeholder and public feedback and considering a phased approach to site development.

- **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 work has continued the development of a retaining wall, drainage installation, excavation of the median, grading, and construction of the Galloping Goose Trail multi-use bridge superstructure. Tree planting and removal continues. Work completion is anticipated in fall 2027.
- **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 final North and South bridge construction activities, including streetlights, signage, and civil grading. Civil works continued along the highway, including placement of gravels and concrete roadside barriers. The bus lanes and multi-use path have been opened.
- **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 2027 and be completed by 2028. 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 through demolition and remediation, and ultimately the construction of the facility on the prepared site at a future date.
 - Project Update:
 - **Site Prep:** The Construction Manager (CM) contract has been awarded, and subtrade tenders have been approved. Site turnover and formal mobilization to the CM are scheduled for August 2026. Demolition activities at the Commerce Circle property are expected to start in September.

- **Engagement:** Community engagement is ongoing. Two onsite open houses were held in June with over 70 people in attendance, and project updates are provided through a project website and subscriber-based e-newsletter. Staff presented project updates to the CRD Transportation Committee, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and the Saanich Community Association Network earlier this year and routine updates are provided to the District of Saanich and area community associations.
- **Langford Transit Centre Upgrades**
 - Project Scope: The Langford Transit Centre modernization project includes facility site improvements such as 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: Awarded the contract for Construction Manager and held the kick-off meeting. Advanced the yard design to 30% and secured internal endorsements. Developed two revised shop building options with Class B cost estimates. Progressing value engineering to align project scope with budget. Construction for the electrification of the Langford Transit Centre is underway, and 16 charging points are expected to be ready for use by the end of 2026.
- **Victoria Transit Centre Battery Electric Bus infrastructure Phase 2**
 - Project Scope: The Victoria Transit Centre battery electric bus infrastructure retrofits project scope includes installation of 46 charging points, associated electrical distribution infrastructure, site works, upgraded utility service to the site and maintenance bay upgrades to support the next deployment of battery electric bus fleet to the Victoria Regional Transit System.
 - Project Update: Advanced the design to 60% detail phase and secured internal endorsements. Design is progressing to 90% detail phase. Awarded contract for Construction Manager (CM); early procurement and site investigations are ongoing prior to start of construction. Planning for construction phase is ongoing to determine and minimize bus and staff parking disruptions during construction.

Prepared by: James Wadsworth

Title: Manager, Infrastructure Planning

Date: August 12, 2026

Reviewed by: Christy Harrold

Title: VP, Planning, Strategy and Public Affairs

Date: August 24, 2026