
SUBJECT: PLANNING UPDATE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission an update of transit planning activities for **INFORMATION**.

Service Planning

- **Winter Service 2013 (Jan - March)** – Winter service began on December 31st, no significant schedule changes from the fall service are proposed.
- **Spring Service 2013 (March - June)** – No significant schedule changes from the winter and fall service are proposed.
- **Summer Service 2013 (June - Sept)** – BC Transit staff is reviewing 2012 summer service levels and will begin finalizing summer schedules later this spring.
- **Fall Service 2013 (Sept - Dec)** – BC Transit staff is working on finalizing the proposed 2013/14 Annual Service Plan for commission approval in February, which includes “quick wins” identified at the December Commission meeting and the proposed service expansion.
- **Three Year Service Plan 2013/14 – 2015/16** – The Commission was presented a three-year Service and Financial Strategy (2013/14 – 2015/16) at the December 4, 2012 meeting to select a preferred option to guide budget and program development. The Strategy included a base budget and three expansion options reflecting different levels of transit investment and resulting ridership outcomes. The Commission selected Service Expansion Option Three, which provides approximately a 2.7 per cent increase in service levels per annum over the three year period. This is the level of investment needed to remain on target to implement the Transit Future Plan Strategy. The Commission requested that BC Transit staff consult with the CRD Board on the Three Year Service Strategy to allow for broader regional input in an effort to pursue regional funding opportunities for future transit investments. BC Transit staff will make a presentation to the CRD Board on the Three Year Service Strategy, Transit Service Review and Transit Priority Studies in the spring of 2013 after the completion of the Transit Priority Study.

Planning Initiatives

- **Service Review** – Analysis of the system and individual route performance has been completed. BC Transit staff has prepared the 2013/14 Annual Service Plan for Commission approval based on the “quick wins” identified as part of the Service Review Process and the first year of service expansion proposed in the Three Year Service Strategy. BC Transit is in the process of meeting with all municipalities’ staff in the region to discuss the service review and their communities’ near-term transit needs. Staff will begin to develop longer-term recommendations on transit service

concepts based on the Transit Future Plan, route performance analysis and Three Year Service Strategy for presentation to the Commission later in 2013.

- **Transit Priority Studies** - Work continues to develop the transit priority treatment options for the Douglas, Island Hwy and McKenzie corridors. Preliminary options have been identified and impact assessments are underway. BC Transit is continuing to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure the recommendations of the Ministry's Hwy 1 and 17 corridor studies align with this study.

- **Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan Seismic Update** - As part of the development of the Victoria Regional Facility Master Plan, focus has been placed on resolving the issues surrounding the seismic condition of the East Shop of the Victoria Transit Centre (VTC) which presently houses the body and paint shop. A number of options are under consideration and a business case is being prepared.
 - **Option 1:** Retain the East Shop and upgrade the facility to current seismic standards.
 - **Option 2:** Demolition of the East Shop, construct a new purpose built body and paint shop at Langford Transit Centre (LTC).
 - **Option 3:** Demolition of the East Shop, outsource the functions of the body shop. This option would require further financial analysis to determine the cost/benefit of outsourcing the body shop functions, based on fleet maintenance forecasts for the expected service life of any purpose built BC Transit body and paint shop.
 - **Option 4:** Demolition of the East Shop, purchase new property to relocate the body and paint shop functions. This option will require a property search to determine if suitable properties are available. An analysis of any proposed locations or any existing suitable facilities must be conducted to determine if any are more financially attractive than using space at a BC Transit owned facility to construct a new shop.

- **CNG** – BC Transit has approved the purchase of CNG buses and has initiated discussion with local governments to participate in trailing these buses.

- **UVIC Campus Transit Plan** – The UVic Campus Transit Plan report has been provided to the Commission for information (see Report #12). The Plan forecasts future ridership at UVic and identifies short and long-term transit facilities options and other actions needed to improve the quality and utilization of transit services on campus.

Infrastructure Projects

- **BC Transit Shelter Program** - BC Transit and the participating municipalities have approved plans to install 42 bus shelters in 2012/13. Work is now complete for 34 shelters with the remainder of the units expected to be completed before the end of the fiscal year. In response to recent public feedback regarding the weather protection provided by the designs, BC Transit is reviewing some enhancements to the designs. It should be noted that the BC Transit standardized products are in alignment with shelter construction and weather protection available on the open

market, and were selected due to the high vandalism and associated repair costs in the region.

- **Royal Roads Transit Terminal** – The University of Royal Roads is planning to fund and construct a new transit turn around and bus pullout on Campus this spring as part of a larger project to improve road and sidewalk infrastructure. BC Transit plans to adjust local community bus routes to service this new transit terminal in the fall of 2013. The new terminal and associated change in transit service will reduce walking distance for students and increase service on Campus in the evenings and weekends.

Service Update

- **Special events and construction projects** – These events and projects sometimes require detour routings and in some cases additional operating resources to deliver service and meet passenger demand.

Upcoming special events

- **Ford World Men's Curling Championships** will be held at the Save-On Foods Memorial Centre in Victoria from March 30th to April 7th, 2013. BC Transit will provide free transit service to the 515 event volunteers.

Construction projects

- **Leigh Rd Interchange** – Completion date is summer to fall 2013 and will require permanent bus route changes.
- **Victoria Blue Bridge replacement** – exact construction dates unknown at this time.
- **Craigflower Bridge replacement** – construction to begin in early April, BC Transit and Saanich have identified detour routes for transit.
- **BC Hydro Duct Bank Project** – BC Hydro has a project that will commence this spring which requires trenching and will impact traffic on Douglas, Saanich, Oak and Blanshard. This project will require the temporary relocation of the northbound bus stop on Hwy 1 at Saanich Rd and may cause delays to transit service.
- **McKenzie/Finnerty Intersection** – Saanich will be constructing a roundabout at the McKenzie/Finnerty Intersection. The project will begin in this spring. The project will impact transit operations during construction but once constructed, will reduce delays to transit at the intersection.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission receive this report for **INFORMATION**.

Respectfully,



Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer