

Victoria Regional Transit Commission

Chair and Members

November 9, 2021

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SUBJECT: MAJOR FACILITIES REPORT

PURPOSE

This report on major transit facility projects in the Victoria Region is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the "Commission") for **INFORMATION**.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

handyDART Centre at 2401 Burnside Road

Project activities for the new handyDART centre in View Royal continue to advance. Two early works / site preparatory tender packages have recently closed with facility construction activity anticipated to commence this month. Following a period of site settlement, full construction mobilization will take place in late summer of 2022.

The first phase of early works includes improvements to Burnside Rd, realignment of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, landscaping and the addition of two new bus shelters to support the local transit network. The second phase of work includes creek realignment and rough grading of the site, with commencement timing dependent on the receipt of Federal and Provincial permits. The Environmental Development Permit was submitted to the Town of View Royal in late July and is under review for approval.

The project team continues to advance discussions with Esquimalt Nation to inform cultural recognition opportunities and provide project updates as well as upcoming economic opportunities associated with the above tender packages. Indigenous participation language was included in the recent tenders.

The third phase of public engagement with local stakeholders occurred July 2021 and the consultation report is attached as an appendix. Over 1,200 people have provided input over the past 18 months through online surveys, stakeholder meetings and a neighbourhood working group. Results of engagement included positive feed back on the design, landscaping, rain garden, efforts to project Craigflower Creek and proposed improvements to Burnside Rd and the Galloping Goose Trail. Suggested additional improvements to the design, landscaping, rain garden, storm water management, and Craigflower Creek. Concerns about traffic volume and safety, and noise impacts on nesting birds. These inputs will help inform the development of design moving forward.

Engagement has transitioned to the construction phase and an e-newsletter is being created to continue to inform the community of activities on site.

Planning is underway for a ground breaking ceremony and a blessing ceremony.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Transit Related Projects

MOTI is advancing transit infrastructure initiatives that supports the development of the Victoria Regional Transit System including:

- **Highway 14 Connie Rd to Glinz Lake Rd Realignment and Park & Ride** – The highway 14 realignment includes a new park & ride near Connie Rd and new transit stops with bus pullouts to improve safety and passenger amenities that are under construction.

PROJECTS IN PLANNING OR DEVELOPMENT

Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan

BC Transit has completed the first phase of the 25-Year Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan. The plan provides a strategic roadmap for future transit facility investment to support a transition to battery electric buses and a future transit fleet of up to 600 buses. The plan includes short term recommendations for enhancements to both the Victoria and Langford Transit Operating Centres and up to two new additional transit operating centres for future growth. The plan provides key inputs for future project business case(s) and funding application(s). Potential near term investments include the following items:

- VTC and LTC Maintenance Modernization and Enhancements to support near-term maintenance and operational service improvements and those that support the implementation of battery electric bus including the approved 10 bus battery electric bus project at VTC;
- Advance design and business case for a 3rd Operating Centre that is a fully battery electric bus operations centre to allow project approvals and an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding request; and,
- Acquire lands for future facilities as required.

Individual projects are still subject to design refinement, business case approvals and applicable funding applications.

Uptown Mobility Hub Planning

Planning initiatives underway to advance the Uptown Multi-Modal Hub.

- **Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Plan** - BC Transit/MOTI have initiated a study with Perkins & Will (P&W) for a preliminary concept design of a multi-modal hub with TOD potential. The objective is to establish a concept design to advance to Saanich, the VRTC and MOTI for pre-approval in the spring of 2022. The study will confirm transit functional requirements and commercial development opportunities that can possibly be integrated into a Transit Exchange and TOD. The study will provide the information necessary to decide whether or not to advance the project to the concept refinement phase. Future steps may include a development proposal, stakeholder engagement and preparing a business case.
- The project planning work is advancing and BC Transit is conducting site tours with team members & stakeholders. The study should be completed in early 2022.



RECOMMENDATION

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

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