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**SUBJECT: Extended late night transit service and associated costs**

**PURPOSE**

This report provides information on extending late night service and estimated costs to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **INFORMATION**

**BACKGROUND**

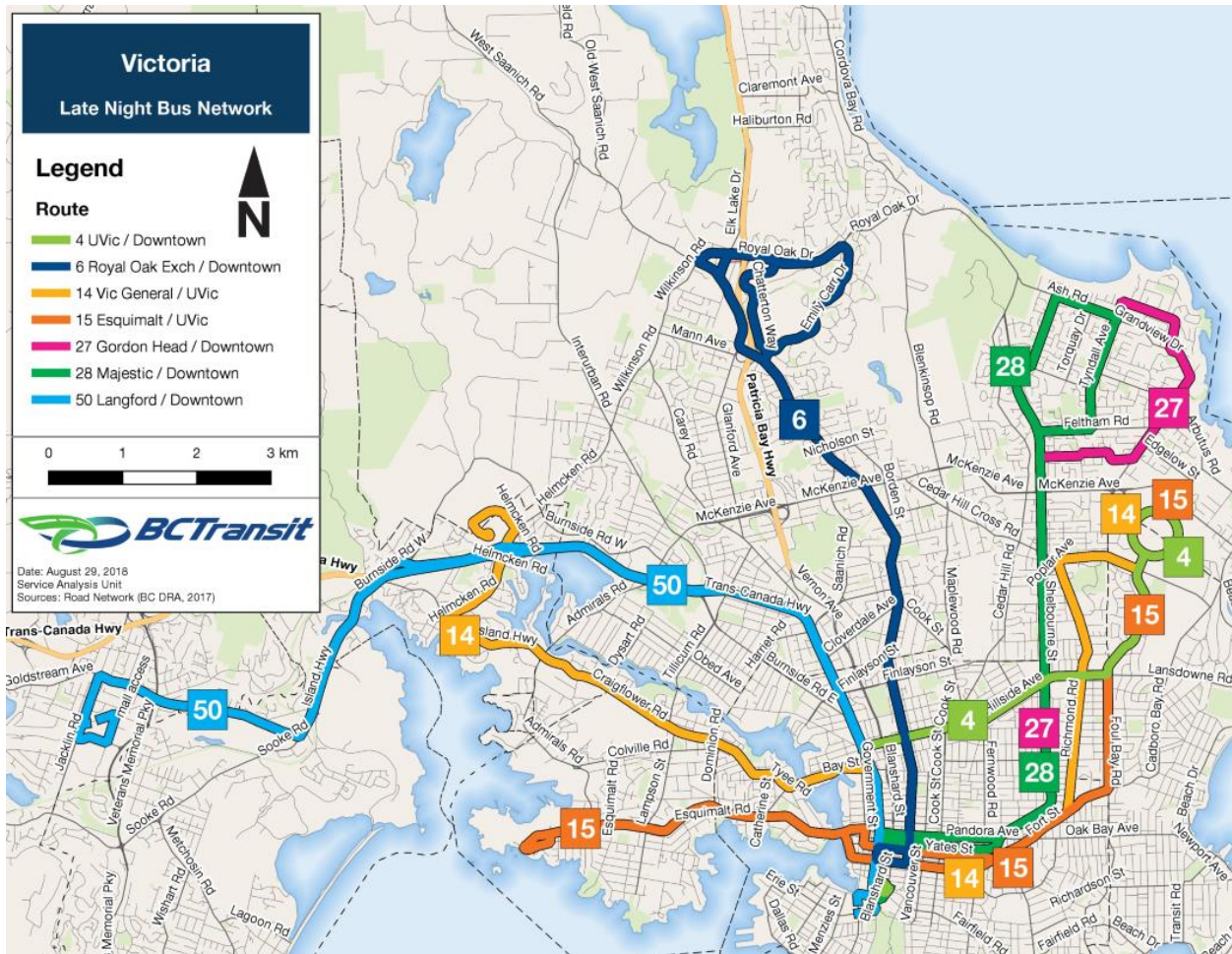
At the June 2018 Commission meeting, the Better Transit and Transportation Coalition appeared as a delegation requesting the extension of late night service. Specifically, they requested that existing services on Friday, Saturday and holidays run until 3:00 AM. The Commission requested BC Transit to report back with further information regarding estimated costs and considerations to guide upcoming planning activities.

At the same June Meeting, the Commission approved, in principle, the expansion of eight buses and an additional 20,000 service hours for implementation in the Fall of 2019. A workshop session is proposed for later in the fall to review transit service improvement options in more detail to determine which initiatives to move forward with, either through expansion or re-allocation of existing service hours.

**Existing Service**

Transit service operates from Monday through Thursday to approximately 12:00 AM. On Friday, Saturday and select holidays, service is extended with six additional trips per route (35 total). On these nights, the last scheduled trips leave downtown Victoria between 1:30 AM to 1:45 AM on the following routes:

- 4 UVic/Downtown
- 6 Royal Oak/Downtown
- 14 UVic/Vic General
- 15 Esquimalt/UVic
- 27/28 Gordon Head/Majestic/Downtown
- 50 Langford/ Downtown



Existing late night is provided with 18 buses and approximately 2,000 annual hours of service. Support staff such as transit supervisors, depot staff and maintenance staff, also have extended shifts on Friday and Saturday evening until the last buses return to the operating centres at approximately 2:45 AM.

## DISCUSSION

### Proposed Extension of Late Night Service

Late night service could be extended on Friday, Saturday and select holidays with three additional trips, the last scheduled trips leaving downtown between 2:30 AM to 3:00 AM on the following routes:

- 4 UVic/Downtown
- 6 Royal Oak/Downtown
- 14 UVic/Vic General
- 15 Esquimalt/UVic
- 27/28 Gordon Head/Majestic/Downtown
- 50 Langford/ Downtown

Extended late night service to other days of the week is problematic because it would impede the ability to have the buses ready for peak morning service on weekdays.

Extending the late night service on Fridays, Saturdays and select holidays does not require additional buses. However, additional resources will be required to extend transit supervision and yard operations until the last bus returns to the yard at approximately 3:45 AM. In addition to three transit operator shifts, additional support staff include one transit supervisor, and two supply services clerks.

Extending late night service on Friday and Saturday nights is estimated to cost \$577,000 on an annual basis (approximately 2,200 hours at \$260 per hour).

**Table 1 – Friday and Saturday Extended Late Night Incremental Service Cost**

<b>Cost Area</b>	<b>Annual</b>
Transit Operations	265,000
Logistics	27,000
Transit Supervision	113,000
Maintenance	152,000
Information Systems	0
Marketing	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>577,000</b>

### **Next Steps**

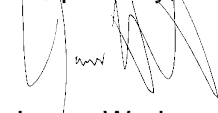
The Commission has received numerous requests for enhanced or expanded services across the region through transit planning initiatives such as the Transit Future Plan, Local Area Transit Plans as well as initiatives identified by the public and local stakeholders. A workshop session will be scheduled in December to review all these transit service improvement requests, including this proposed late night service, in more detail. The outcome of that workshop will be a prioritized list of initiatives to incorporate into the 2019/20 Service Plan either through expansion or the re-allocation of existing service hours.

In February 2019 BC Transit will confirm provincial funding to fund expansion for 2019/20 and the Commission will have the opportunity to approve expansion with the annual budget. Transit service expansions would be implemented in the Fall of 2019.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Commission receive this report for **INFORMATION** to inform service expansion decisions at the December workshop.

Respectfully,



James Wadsworth  
Planning Manager