

December 10th, 2013

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 2014 (December 30, 2013 – March 2014)** – The following service changes will be implemented for the winter service schedule effective December 30, 2013:
 - Increase weekend service levels on routes 4, 6, 11, 14, 26, 27, 28 30, 31, 50 to ensure 15 minute service throughout the day from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Additional hours scheduled for Saturdays (88 hours per day) and approximately 11 hours per day in the weekday;
 - Route 1 Richardson/Downtown: Additional trips added to schedule, all trips will now route to Central & St Patrick, Oak Marina routing is cancelled;
 - Route 2 Oak Bay/Downtown: Adjust weekday morning peak schedule for more consistent spacing between trips;
 - Route 7 UVic/Downtown: Adjust weekday morning peak schedule for more consistent service intervals to UVic; change last 7A (via Gonzales) to operate normal routing to UVic to better match service to ridership demand. Only the first 7A trip will remain;
 - Route 17/18 Cedar Hill: Cancel the Route 18 trip and start the 8:00am Route 17 at Quadra and Finlayson to better match service to demand;
 - Route 35 Ridge: Adjust school trips to better meet Claremont Secondary bell times;
 - Route 50 Langford/Downtown: To improve consistency for passengers, trips will no longer serve Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre. All trips will remain on Island Highway in both directions;
 - Route 75 Saanichton/Royal Oak: Change all trips starting or ending at Royal Oak trips to start as or continue on as route 30/31 James Bay / Beacon Hill. This means that passengers travelling between Saanichton and Downtown will no longer have to change buses at the Royal Oak Exchange;
 - Route 81 Brentwood/Sidney: Adjust school trips to better meet Stelly's Secondary bell times;
- **Spring Service 2014 (April - June)** – No significant schedule changes from the Winter service are proposed, minor changes include the annual seasonal reduction of post-secondary trips to UVic and Camosun. Minor schedule adjustments will be

made where possible to improve the consistency of intervals between trips and on-time performance. This may involve adding some trips and adjustments to trip times.

Planning Initiatives

Service Review – Report #8 provides an update on the Service Review

Related Municipal Plans – The City of Colwood and Town of View Royal have initiated updates to their Master Transportation Plans. BC Transit staff is participating in these planning processes as stakeholders to ensure alignment with local municipal planning and the Transit Future Plan.

Development Referrals – In the past year, BC Transit has received and commented on over 114 development referrals from seven of the 13 municipal partners. This process enables local governments to send larger-scale development or rezoning proposals to BC Transit for comment. As part of this referral process, BC Transit reviews the proposal and provides local government with comments on how the proposed development fits with the existing transit network, the outlook for future transit service to the development area, and comments on pedestrian links or transit amenities that would make the development more transit-friendly. The following is a summary list of development referrals received by BC Transit From the seven respective municipalities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colwood 10• Highlands 1• Langford 56• Oak Bay 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saanich 3• Sooke 40• View Royal 1
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CRD Regional Transportation Plan – The Draft CRD Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) has been referred by the CRD Board to the BC Transit Board of Directors and the Victoria Regional Transit Commission for comment. BC Transit staff will be providing comment on the RTP document for the Commission’s endorsement in early 2014.

Infrastructure Projects

BC Transit Shelter Program – Purchase orders for 33 units are in place with the approved vendors for approved locations in the Victoria region for 2013/14. New additions for 2013/14 include four shelters to be installed in Central Saanich, at the Saanichton exchange. Installations will be commencing in November and will continue through to completion prior to the end of the fiscal year.

UVic Exchange – Progress continues to be made with the planning and design for the UVic exchange expansion, with UVic confirming their commitment to the project. An open house was held November 7th at UVic to present the proposed expansion design concept, including attendance by BC Transit staff. The next steps in the project include the submission of the Development Variance permit application by UVic to Saanich, further work on the design features, and completion of a Project Term Sheet.

Planning for a New Conventional Operating Centre - The property search for the third conventional operating facility is underway. A market scan will be undertaken to determine properties presently on the market that may meet functional requirements. In addition, discussions with local government partners, the Province, and school districts will be initiated to establish if there are public land holdings or partnership opportunities that may be suitable. Land options will be analyzed based on several criteria, including (but not limited to) cost, size, location, zoning, transit operating cost implications, availability, and partnership opportunities. Initial findings are expected to be available in early 2014.

Douglas Street Bus Lanes – The Douglas Street bus lanes will be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 would see the conversion, in both direction, of existing parking to bus lanes during peak periods between Hillside and Fisgard and will be constructed this fiscal year. As the design work and construction would be undertaken by the City of Victoria, BC Transit is working with City staff to develop the implementation plans. Phase 2 from Hillside to Tolmie requires additional design and consultation; this phase will be implemented over the following fiscal year. Again, both design and construction would be undertaken by the City. Discussions continue with MoTI on the remaining segment of Douglas (from Tolmie to Uptown) for the development of bus lanes.

Island Hwy and McKenzie Ave Transit Priority Initiatives – A letter on behalf of the VRTC was sent to Colwood, View Royal, Saanich and MOTI regarding Transit Priority Initiatives on Douglas, Island Hwy and McKenzie Ave. The letter requested that municipalities work with BC Transit staff to advance transit priority projects on each of these corridors.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,



Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer