
SUBJECT: Winter 2019 Route Changes – Carey Road Bus Zone

PURPOSE

This report presents routing changes designed to take advantage of the bus zone and transit priority signal on Carey Road to access the Douglas Street bus lanes. The route changes are presented to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **APPROVAL**.

BACKGROUND

BC Transit worked with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, District of Saanich and City of Victoria to install bus lanes on Douglas Street to provide transit priority in and out of the downtown core. Transit priority projects are part of a larger network strategy to develop a rapid transit network, as outlined in the Victoria Region Transit Future Plan.

To support the rapid transit strategy, the Ministry of Transportation installed a transit activated left-turn priority signal at Douglas Street and Carey Road to provide transit priority for Peninsula oriented routes turning left from Carey Road to access the southbound Douglas Street bus lane. In addition, the District of Saanich and Morguard Development installed bus stops on Carey Road as part of previous construction work at Uptown Mall. The establishment of a bus zone at this location is a key step towards operating a full transit exchange at the Uptown location as identified in the region’s Transit Future Plan. Last year, Routes 16 Uptown/UVic, 30 Royal Oak/Downtown and 31 Royal Oak/Downtown were rerouted to use the northbound bus zone on Carey Road.

DISCUSSION

The following routes changes are recommended to the Commission for approval to take advantage of the Douglas Street and Highway 1 transit priority investments.

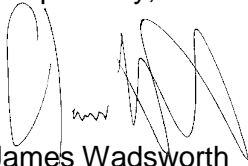
- Southbound trips on 30 Royal Oak/Downtown and 31 Royal Oak/Downtown will be changed to use the Carey Road bus zone as well as the new transit priority signal to access the southbound Douglas Street bus lane.
- Routes 32X Cordova Bay/Royal Oak, 70 Swartz Bay/Downtown and 71 Swartz Bay/Downtown will be rerouted around Uptown to use the bus zone at Carey Road and new transit priority signal to access the Douglas Street bus lanes.
- Routes 72 Swartz Bay/Downtown and 75 Saanichton/Royal Oak/Downtown routing will change to use Saanich Road to route to the Douglas Street bus lanes.

These routes previously routed on Blanshard Street and Cloverdale Avenue to access Douglas Street, but were experiencing delays due to traffic congestion on Blanshard Street. If approved, routing will be changed effective Monday December 31, 2018 as part of the regular Winter Service Change. Further details are attached.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission approve changing the bus route to service the Douglas Street bus lanes using the transit priority signal and bus zone on Carey Road.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Wadsworth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Wadsworth
Planning Manager

Attachment: Proposed Service Changes for Winter 2019

APPENDIX - Service Changes – Proposed for Winter 2019

Routes Changes

- 30 Royal Oak/Downtown
- 31 Royal Oak/Downtown
- 32X Cordova Bay/Royal Oak
- 70 Swartz Bay/Downtown
- 71 Swartz Bay/Downtown
- 72 Swartz Bay/Downtown
- 75 Saanichton/Royal Oak/Downtown

Change Overview

- Southbound trips on Routes 30 and 31 will be rerouted at Uptown to use the southbound bus zone and transit priority signal at Carey Road to access the southbound Douglas Street bus lane. Existing route travels southbound on Blanshard to Saanich Road to Douglas
- Routes 72 and 75 will be rerouted to use Saanich Road to access the Douglas Street bus lanes. Northbound trips will use Douglas, Saanich Road to access the Patricia Bay Highway. Existing route travels on Blanshard, Cloverdale and Douglas.
- Routes 32X, 70 and 71 will be rerouted at Uptown to use the bus zone and new transit signal at Carey Road to access the Douglas Street bus lanes. On southbound trips, the routes will exit the highway on Vernon Avenue, turn left onto Carey and left onto Douglas. Northbound trips will travel from Douglas to Carey Road, to Ravine Way to access the Patricia Bay Highway. Existing route travels on Blanshard, Cloverdale to Douglas.

Key Benefits to Change

- The new routing will improve route directness and transit travel times for customers.
- The bus zone on Carey Road establishes a transit presence on the west side of the Uptown Mall where the future Uptown Transit Exchange will be located.
- Changes support future development of rapid bus service.

Considerations

- Route changes will increase walking distances for people accessing the Garth Homer Society from these routes. The Garth Homer Society is still served directly by Peninsula bus routes 72 and 75 on Blanshard and Vernon.

