

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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**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**

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- **Winter Service 2014 (December 30, 2013 – March 2014)** – The winter service schedule became effective December 30, 2013.
- **Spring Service 2014 (April 7, 2014 – June 22, 2014)** – No significant schedule changes from the Winter 2014 service are proposed. Minor changes include the annual seasonal reduction of post-secondary trips to UVic and Camosun and the reallocation of services between community bus and conventional bus to match passenger demand. Details are as follows:
  - **Seasonal service reductions:** Service is discontinued from April to September on the 29 UVic, 33 UVic, 76X Swartz Bay / UVic Express.
  - **Community bus allocations:** From April to September, service reverts to operation by community bus on the 8 Interurban/Tillicum Mall/Oak Bay (evening trips), 12 UVic/Univ Heights (midday trips) and 39 Royal Roads/UVic/Royal Oak Exchange (evening trips).
  - **Conventional bus allocations:** On weekends and holidays, the 81 Swartz Bay/Sidney/Brentwood/Keating will shift to operation by conventional bus from community bus to meet increased summer passenger demand.
- **Summer Service 2014 (June 23, 2014 – August 31, 2014)** – Development of final summer service proposals is still underway. Other than regular seasonal service changes—such as the seasonal reduction routes that service secondary and post-secondary and the introduction of enhanced seasonal service to the Swartz Bay ferry terminal and Butchart Gardens—a number of other changes are under consideration. For details see the 2014/15 Annual Service Plan (report #10).

**Planning Initiatives**

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**Service Review** – The Victoria Regional Transit Service Review report is being tabled for Approval by the Commission. For details see report #9.

**2014/15 Annual Service Plan** - The 2014/15 Annual Service Plan is being tabled as a report to the Commission for Approval. For details see report #10. The plan forecasts allocation of service hours by time of year and route type, identifies service change dates, and describes proposed significant changes and expansions to service.

**Transit Future Plan Network Amendment** – The City of Langford has requested an update to the Transit Future Plan Network Map to reflect recent changes to the road network with the opening of the Leigh Rd Interchange as noted below:

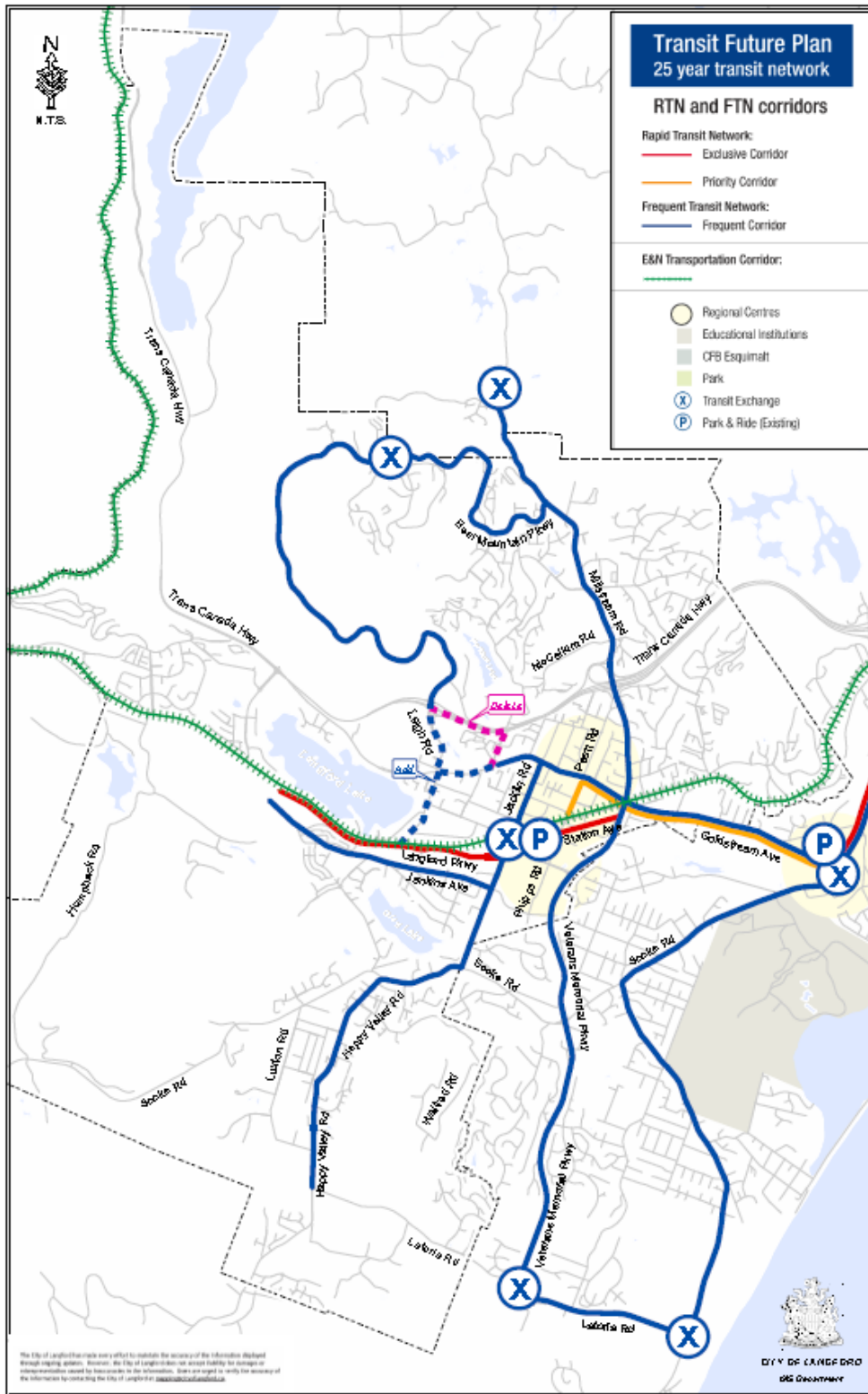
- Delete the section of travel that includes the Trans-Canada Highway from the southbound on ramp at the Leigh Road Interchange east/south to Spencer Road;
- Delete the section of travel that is southbound on Spencer Road between the Trans-Canada Highway and Goldstream Avenue;
- Add in the section of Goldstream Avenue from Spencer Road west to Leigh Road; and,
- Add in the section of Leigh Road south from the Trans-Canada Highway to connect to Langford Parkway.

The proposed update is shown on the Transit Future Plan map below. The update more accurately reflects the regional road network connectivity and the actual functionality of

the Langford road network. The supporting resolution received by BC Transit from the City of Langford is as follows:

*Under resolution of Council at our meeting of Monday January 20th, 2014, the City of Langford respectfully requests that these amendments be made to the Transit Future Plan – Victoria Region, May 2011.*

BC Transit staff are supportive of the changes proposed by the City of Langford and will update the Transit Future Plan Network as requested.



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

**Development Referrals** – In December 2013 and January 2014, BC Transit received and commented on 10 development referrals from four of the 13 municipal partners. This process enables local governments to send larger-scale development or rezoning proposals to BC Transit for comment. The following development referrals were received by BC Transit from the four respective municipalities; Colwood (2), Langford (3), Saanich (1) and Sooke (4).

The referral received from Saanich at 3645 Tillicum Road (the southeast corner of Tillicum at the Trans Canada Hwy) included a proposal for improvements to the bus stop that fronts the Trans Canada Hwy. The sightlines at the existing stop are poor and the pullout back into traffic is very short. The proposed improvements to the bus stop do not fully meet transit stop guidelines for a highway bus stop. BC Transit has no objection to the proposed development in principle and will continue to work with the developer, Saanich and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to resolve the bus stop issues and also take into consideration longer-term plans for bus lanes and Rapid Transit in this corridor.

**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. Report #12 provides a draft response to CRD Board on the RTP from the Commission.

### **Infrastructure Projects**

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**BC Transit Shelter Program** – Purchase orders for 33 units have been completed. Four new shelters will soon be installed in Central Saanich at the Saanichton exchange. Installations are ongoing and expected to be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**UVic Exchange** – Designs are being completed to a 90% level for the expansion of the transit exchange. The Development Permit Variance application has been made by UVic to the District of Saanich. UVic has signed the Memorandum of Understanding between BC Transit and the University. It is expected that all documentation and engineering design work will be ready for submission to public tender in March 2014 with completion scheduled for September 2014.

**Transit Priority Update** – Report #13 provides an update on the Douglas Street Bus Lanes.

**Facilities Strategy Update**- Report #14 provides an update on planning for a new Conventional Operating Centre.

**Highway 17 at Mt Newton Bus Stops** – There are no existing transit stops on Highway 17 at Mt Newton for customers to access direct service to and from downtown and Swartz Bay on the 70 Express. The 70 Express was implemented in 2007 and over the past several years a number of local residents have requested a stop at this location to access transit service. This location has also been identified in the Transit Future Plan for Rapidbus style stops. BC Transit staff have been in discussion with MoTI to establish stops and bus pullouts at this location.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Achadinha', written in a cursive style.

Manuel Achadinha  
President and Chief Executive Officer

