
SUBJECT: LOCAL AREA TRANSIT PLAN UPDATE

PURPOSE

This update on the Local Area Transit Plans is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (“the Commission”) for **APPROVAL**.

SUMMARY

The Victoria Region Transit Future Plan (2011) established a 25-year vision of an integrated regional transit system to meet the transportation needs of the region. The subsequent 2013/14 Service Review builds upon the Transit Future Plan by identifying specific transit priority measures, infrastructure needs and service initiatives to effectively implement the Transit Future Plan. The Service Review identifies seven local areas where the transit network deserved closer analysis: the Westshore, Tillicum-Burnside, James Bay, Sooke, Jubilee, Esquimalt and Peninsula.

To date, five Local Area Transit Plans have been completed: the Westshore (2015), James Bay (2017), Sooke (2020), Jubilee (2020), and Burnside-Tillicum (2020). Phase two of consultation is underway for both of the Esquimalt/View Royal and Broadmead/Cordova Bay areas. The final Local Area Transit Plan for the Peninsula has been identified to start in spring 2020.

Each Local Area Transit Plan builds upon the vision and goals of the Transit Future Plan and Service Review. They establish transit service (route design and service levels) and infrastructure priorities for their respective areas in the short-term (1-3 years) and medium-term (4-7 years). This report provides the Local Area Transit Plan for Sooke and summaries for Burnside-Tillicum and Jubilee. Summaries have been provided in lieu of full plans as staff consider that further engagement and synthesis is required for some of the proposals prior to consideration for implementation. As the Transit Future Action Plan is nearly underway, this process provides an opportunity to further refine and integrate these proposals within the comprehensive context of the entire system.

Sooke Local Area Transit Plan

The District of Sooke is among the fastest growing municipalities in the Victoria Central Metropolitan Area (CMA) and has strong demand for transit. Continued population growth and land use changes provide an opportunity for transit investment and transit ridership growth. The Sooke area is currently serviced by two types of transit service – regional routes that connect Sooke to Langford and Victoria (routes 61 Sooke/Langford/ Downtown and 65 Sooke/Downtown via Westhills) and two local routes that serve rural areas on the periphery of Sooke (routes 63 Otter Point and 64 East Sooke/Sooke). The Sooke Local Area Transit Plan includes a review of the four existing routes against the Victoria Service Design Standards and Performance Guidelines established in the Service Review and considers route revisions and new routes to better serve the growing area.

Public consultation carried out for the Sooke Local Area Transit Plan included a Transit Future bus event, two online surveys, targeted stakeholder workshops and a number of open houses. Over 1,200 people participated in the consultation. The process was divided into two phases:

- Phase one gathered information on broad concepts of service improvements and phase two focused on the evaluation of specific route and service proposals. Feedback received during phase one heavily emphasized customer improvements to the commuting routes including reducing overcrowding, increased route speed, providing more direct service, increased lighting and visibility and a need for greater early morning service on weekdays.
- Phase two similarly highlighted overcrowding on the route 61 and identified strong support for the proposed new routes that will better service the growing Sooke area including emerging neighbourhoods such as Sunriver and Broomhill.

The plan recommends service proposals to improve the routes 61 and 65 and the establishment of five new local coverage routes to service the Broomhill neighbourhood, the Grant Road and Whiffin Spit areas, the Sasseenos and Sunriver neighbourhoods, Otter Point/Kemp Lake areas, East Sooke and Beecher Bay. The plan also recommends the development of a new on-street transit exchange at Waddams Way to supplement the existing Sooke exchange, which has reached capacity and is reducing the effectiveness of timed transfers between routes.

Burnside-Tillicum Local Area Transit Plan

The Burnside-Tillicum Local Area Transit Plan (BTLATP) contains nine recommendations for changes to routes that serve the Burnside-Tillicum area and identifies five infrastructure improvements within the plan area. The plan area encompasses the western portion of the District of Saanich, eastern part of the Town of View Royal and northern extent of the City of Victoria. Combined, the eight routes serving this area account for approximately one third of the Victoria Regional Transit System's total ridership. Residents of the BTLATP have a 13.5 percent transit mode share – well above the 7.5 percent figure of the entire Victoria census metropolitan area.

In total, nearly 900 people participated in consultation. Phase one received significant feedback on potential service improvements to serve the Tillicum Centre, Camosun's Interurban campus, and Victoria General Hospital. Support for proposed service changes in phase 2 of consultation was 95 percent or greater among survey respondents, with the exception of proposals for route 8 and route 9, which had about 85 per cent support.

The plan recommends service changes to the route 8 Interurban/Oak Bay, 21 Interurban/Downtown, 22 Burnside/Downtown, 24 Cedar Hill, 25 Maplewood, 53 Colwood Exchange and the introduction of two new routes, one to serve the Wilkinson Valley and rural Saanich area and a new crosstown route travelling the length of Admirals and McKenzie. The plan also recommends the development of pedestrian access between Burnside Road and Highway 1, transit priority for Interurban Road, additional capacity at Royal Oak Exchange and improved integration of transit stops at Tillicum Centre.

Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan

The Jubilee area encompasses the eastern neighbourhoods within the City of Victoria, the District of Oak Bay and the southeastern neighbourhoods of the District of Saanich up to the University of Victoria. Combined, the ten routes serving this area account for approximately a third of the Victoria Regional Transit System's total ridership.

Public consultation carried out for the Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan included a Transit Future bus event, two online surveys, a targeted stakeholder workshop and a number of open houses. Over 1,100 people participated in the consultation. The process was divided into two phases:

- Phase one gathered information on broad concepts of service improvements and phase two focused on the evaluation of specific route and service proposals. Feedback received during phase one emphasized a desire for better local service to key locations within Oak Bay, a desire for increased frequency on frequent transit network routes, and a desire for a new transit hub to provide better local and regional connections.

Phase two presented a number of route proposals which generated a lot of public interest, particularly around proposed route network changes along Richmond Road and Foul Bay Road.

The plan proposes future network changes for consideration to improve mobility in the area. The plan also identifies the development of an exchange at Royal Jubilee Hospital as a new multi-modal transit exchange for the area as well as a refresh of the northern section of Uvic exchange (adjacent to the Uvic Bookstore). Additional analysis and engagement for this area will continue as part of the Transit Future Action Plan process.

Next Steps

- Integration of the short term service change recommendations into the Victoria Three Year Service and Financial Strategy
 - Service change details may be further refined through additional detailed planning and scheduling work
 - As the proposed service changes constitute a considerable restructuring of transit within the Jubilee and Sooke areas, additional outreach should be carried out prior to implementation
- Integration of Uvic Exchange Capital Planning as a high priority
- Integration of the Royal Oak Transit Exchange expansion into Capital Planning as a high priority
- Integration of Jubilee Exchange Capital Planning as a medium term priority
- Integration of Transit Priority Measures on Interurban Road into Capital Planning
- Integration of the Waddams Way Transit Terminal into Capital Planning as a high priority
- Integration of the Sooke LATP, Burnside Tillicum LATP and the Jubilee LATP into the 2020 Victoria Transit Future Action Plan process.

Status of Ongoing and Future Local Area Transit Plans

Both the Cordova Bay/Broadmead and the Esquimalt/View Royal areas are in phase two of public consultation. Three open houses have been organized for these two local areas and an online survey is available to provide feedback. A schedule of open houses is provided below:

Open House Schedule

Plan Area	Date	Location
Cordova Bay/Broadmead	January 20	Broadside Elementary
	January 22	Cordova Bay United Church

	January 23	Cordova Bay 55+ Association
Esquimalt/View Royal	February 5	Esquimalt Recreation Centre
	February 10	View Royal Community Hall
	February 14	Songhees Wellness Centre

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission **APPROVE** the Sooke Local Area Transit Plan, the Burnside-Tillicum Local Area Transit Plan summary and the Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan summary.

Respectfully,

Seth Wright
Transit Planner

Attachments: Sooke Local Area Transit Plan
Burnside-Tillicum Local Area Transit Plan summary
Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan summary