

**Victoria Regional
Transit Commission**

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Brice - Chair
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City of Victoria

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Town of Sidney

Mayor Barb Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt

Mayor Carol Hamilton
City of Colwood

Councillor Marianne
Alto
City of Victoria

Attachment 2:

February 19, 2014

Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC, V8W 1R7

Re: CRD Regional Transportation Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CRD's Regional Transportation Plan.

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission finds that the CRD's Regional Transportation Plan and goals are well aligned with the Commission's approved Transit Future Plan for the Capital Region. The Commission has requested that BC Transit staff participate in the various committees and processes envisaged by the Transportation Plan and we have been advised that this participation will occur.

The Commission strongly supports Plan's goal of aligning funding priorities with for the two organization to achieve the goals of the Transit Future Plan and Regional Transportation Plan. The financial requirements of large capital projects and the challenges of raising property taxes to support these projects is the most significant barrier to transit expansion at this time. The Regional Transportation Plan's commitment to direct regional gas tax funding to significant transit projects will accelerate transit system growth in the region. The Commission is interested in further information with respect to how the CRD will involve the Commission or BC Transit staff acting on its behalf in setting future gas tax priorities.

With respect to Actions 1.4 and 1.5, on behalf of the Commission BC Transit staff have consulted widely throughout the region with respect to service standards and expectations. The Commission has adopted a series of service standards that establish our criteria for reviewing the success of service allocations throughout the region. These standards and associated KPIs will align well with the identified Action.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the priorities and actions identified in the CRD's Regional Transit plan be reviewed to ensure consistency and alignment to the transit priorities that have been identified as part of the final service review. Specifically:

- The development of Rapid Transit Lines with service to the Westshore, Peninsula, UVic via McKenzie and related initiatives to better facilitate the movement of people throughout the region:
- The development of a Frequent Transit Network which offers a service guarantee of a minimum of 15 minute frequency on routes 4, 14, 26, 27/28 and 30/31 on all service days from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm every day of the week

- Improvements to the Local Transit Network that include providing service to growing neighborhoods without transit service particularly in the Westshore. As well as improvements to service at peak times to reduce passenger pass ups on transit corridors.

With respect to page 43, the report recommends that the lowest level of transit service supported is a bus every 30 minutes. However, recognizing that many areas of the region include rural development, the Commission has adopted transit standards for local service that anticipate a minimum level of service of 4 to 6 trips per day. This level of service allows for limited peak hour and off-peak service to be provided to these areas. A revision to the service standards in the Transportation Plan might be warranted to reflect this.

The executive summary of the report correctly notes that consultation and engagement between the CRD and the Transit Commission is embedded in agency procedures. The Commission wishes to assure the Board that it will continue to consult with the region on major planning issues and service and capital priorities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review this Transportation Plan. We look forward to continued cooperation between ourselves and the CRD towards the development of improved transit and mobility within the Capital Region.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Brice, Chair
Victoria Regional Transit Commission