



Victoria Regional Transit Commission  
520 Gorge Road East  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T5

August 29, 2018

Dear Chair Brice,

I am writing to you on behalf of Victoria City Council to request BC Transit extend late night bus service to 3 a.m. in Victoria.

In 2009, the Mayor's Late Night Task Force was established to review late night issues and identify potential improvements, to ensure Victoria maintains a vibrant downtown core that balances the needs of local businesses, residents, visitors, and late night entertainment users. A major community concern identified was a shortage of transportation options for patrons leaving the downtown after midnight. BC Transit responded by extending bus service to approximately 1:30 a.m. on several routes, and later in 2014, by adding several additional late routes. We have appreciated working with BC Transit to address these community concerns.

Since that time, meetings with late night stakeholders have been reconvened and are again occurring on a regular basis. Participants in the meetings represent a variety of sectors including the Victoria-Esquimalt Police Department, BC Restaurant and Food Association, Victoria Hotel Association, Downtown Victoria Business Association, Downtown Residents Association, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and many City departments. Among other improvements identified, a common observation raised is the need to further extend transportation options to 3 a.m. This would provide a way for patrons wishing to leave the downtown, as well as helping to reduce the extended period of loitering and disorder while waiting for taxis. It would also provide an affordable and reliable option for the late night work force that experiences difficulty getting home.

We understand that downtown business owners have also relayed this request to BC Transit. The City of Victoria wishes to support their request, and respectfully ask BC Transit to extend late night bus service in Victoria.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps  
Victoria Mayor

Cc. Catherine Holt, Chair, BC Transit Board of Directors