
SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

PURPOSE

This report on transit-related infrastructure projects in the Victoria Region is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **INFORMATION**.

DISCUSSION

**ACTIVE PROJECTS:
BC Transit Bus Shelter Program**

Multi-year federal funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) was received in July 2018 for the shelter program providing 40 per cent funding towards eligible costs for the next three years. A standing offer contract with Monarch North America Structure Ltd, previously known as Lucid Management Group, is now in place. This contract expands the suite of shelters and optional add-ons. A new application to the Federal Government has been submitted requesting a further five years of funding under ICIP.

Solicitation for shelters for the 20/21 program is now complete. A summary of shelters that can be accommodated with the current available funding in the 20/21 program is provided below. If the new ICIP application to the Federal Government is approved, additional shelters may be added.

| Region | Number of Shelters Requested | First Round Shelters Approved |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saanich | 14 | 3 |
| Sooke | 5 | 0 |
| Oak Bay | 1 | 1 |
| Colwood | 2 | 2 |
| Central Saanich | 3 | 1 |
| Sidney | 1 | 0 |
| Langford | 3 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 29 | 8 |

CNG Fueling and Facility Modifications

As part of the Low Carbon Fleet program and the introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses in Victoria, CNG fueling infrastructure is now in place at the Langford Transit Centre (LTC). This project provides on-site CNG fueling and the necessary modifications to the maintenance garage required to maintain CNG buses. The phased construction of facility upgrades that include gas detection, safety alarms, and air evacuation system upgrades are nearing completion with system commissioning scheduled for the first weeks of August.

handyDART Centre

The new handyDART centre at 2401 Burnside Road in View Royal supports increasing demands for handyDART services in the region while also supporting expansion of a low-carbon fleet. The handyDART centre, will provide long term service expansion opportunities and is planned to open in 2023 and has received ICIP funding that provides 40 per cent of eligible costs.

The handyDART centre will be the first BC Transit facility to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements. At opening, the fleet will be gasoline fueled and will enable the initial deployment of five electric buses and ongoing conversion of the fleet. The development will meet or exceed all Provincial and Federal environmental protection standards. BC Transit entered into a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Town of View Royal to ensure a collaborative approach can occur, with BC Transit working with staff to meet local development requirements.

To maintain engagement with the community on this development, BC Transit meets monthly with a Neighbourhood Working Group. This group is comprised of members from diverse interests whose input is integrated by the project team into the design process. A public online survey was completed to gather broad feedback on elements of the project to shape and focus future public engagement activities. In parallel, BC Transit continues to consult indigenous groups to integrate their involvement in the project.

Detailed design activities continue to respond to site characteristics to establish site grading so that the design consultant can confirm structure locations and progress designs elements including; storm water management, landscaping, environmental features and others.

Alignment of design milestones with local engagement is crucial to ensure acceptance of the project as the project progresses. With design critical decisions in place, site preparation could start as early as fall of 2020 with full construction mobilization in early 2021.

Island Highway Transit Priority Plan

BC Transit continues to work with McElhanney and local municipal staff to progress the detailed design for transit priority measures on the Island Hwy between Goldstream Avenue and Highway 1. BC Transit and local government staff are engaging with stakeholders along the corridor to discuss the design concepts and will obtain final local government approvals to allow development of a project agreement. Design work recently reached 90 per cent completion. It is anticipated that Issued for Tender (IFC) drawings will be completed in September in support of final project approval and subsequent tendering for construction. It is anticipated that a request for project funding will be presented to the Commission and the Ministry for approval in Fall 2020 to secure funding for construction in 2021. This project will also support the RapidBus Implementation Strategy which is also targeted for a Fall completion.

University of Victoria Transit Exchange Refurbishment

In 2015, BC Transit and the University of Victoria (UVic) completed the first phase of UVIC's transit exchange. The incumbent exchange has been in service for over a decade and requires refurbishment. This second phase of the program will rebuild damaged or failed bus pads, asphalted areas. It will also address functionality and safety concerns with additional bus bays and new shelters. UVic and BC Transit have confirmed a preferred concept and are finalizing a project term sheet. A report and business case will be prepared for the November Transit Commission meeting to obtain funding approval for the local government's share of the project, followed by an application for Provincial funding and Federal ICIP funding contributions. Subsequent design and tendering target construction in Summer 2022 ahead of Fall 2022 classes.

PROJECTS IN PLANNING OR DEVELOPMENT

Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan

BC Transit is in the process of developing an update to the 25-Year Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan. The first phase of the study is underway which includes the development of short term actions that can be implemented to increase efficiency and capacity of these facilities including bus storage. Phase 1 is expected to be completed in October. The second stage deliverable will be a comprehensive report that will highlight existing issues, project future growth, and develop functional requirements, engineering concepts, order of magnitude costs, and a phased investment workplan for a 25-year timeframe. The study is expected to be complete in January 2021 and will provide inputs for future project business case(s) to support provincial and federal funding application(s).

Westshore Transit Priority Action Plan

BC Transit is continuing to work with both Colwood and Langford to advance transit priority planning in the Westshore.

- BC Transit and Colwood are developing a bus lane concept on Sooke Rd between Goldstream and Metchosin Rd that also offers a 20 per cent improvement in travel times for transit. Colwood council has provided additional guidance to allow BC Transit and Colwood staff complete a design for a bus lane concept that fits within the constraints of the corridor and then will complete a multiple account evaluation to determine the value of the investment.
- BC Transit is meeting with Langford to identify transit priority concepts from the study that could be advanced and scheduled for implementation.

A final plan and a decision to move forward will be presented to the Commission in November, subject to the completion of concept design with the City of Colwood. This project will support the RapidBus Implementation Strategy which is also targeted for a Fall completion.

Battery Electric Buses

Work progresses to release a Negotiated Request for Proposal (NFRP) for the first battery electric bus deployment in Victoria. The NFRP is scheduled to be tendered late summer. Discussions and plans are also underway with BC Hydro to ensure power distribution requirements are met.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Transit Related Projects

There are a number of transit infrastructure initiatives that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is advancing that supports the development of the Victoria Regional Transit System including:

Projects

- **McKenzie Interchange** - Highway 1 bus lanes and transit stations continue to be constructed as part of the McKenzie interchange, this project is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2020.
- **Highway 14 Connie Rd to Glinz Lake Rd Realignment and Park & Ride** – The highway 14 realignment includes a new park & ride near Connie Rd and new transit stops with bus pullouts to improve safety and passenger amenities. It is anticipated construction will start in this fiscal year.

Planning Studies

- **Highway 1 Bus Priority Planning** – MOTI is advancing planning work along the Douglas Street/Hwy 1 Corridor to support existing BC Transit initiatives. This work includes exploring transit priority treatments that align with the BC Transit priorities identified through the Victoria Transit Future Plan.
- **Highway 17 Transit Facilities** - The ministry is advancing planning work along the Highway 17 corridor to explore transit priority treatments to support BC Transit Initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receives this report for **INFORMATION**.

Respectfully,

Levi Timmermans
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