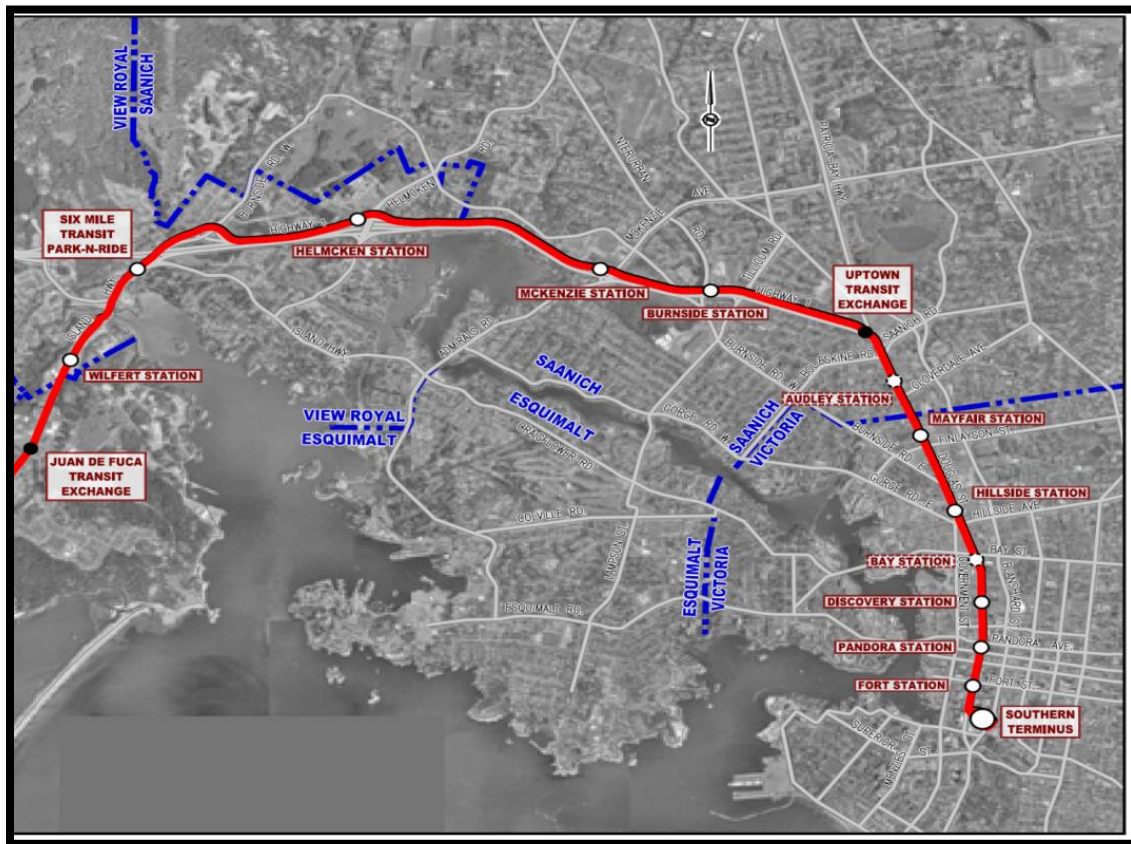


**PURPOSE**

This report is presented to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission for **INFORMATION** and provides an update on the Douglas Street project as well as the anticipated future phases of transit priority to support the development of the transit future network and rapid transit to the west shore.

**BACKGROUND**

The implementation of transit priority measures along key corridors in the region has been the focus of the Commission and BC Transit over the past year. The Transit Future Plan identified that improved transit to the WestShore was a priority and, as a result, Douglas Street was identified as the priority corridor to pilot a dedicated bus lane during peak travel times. It is anticipated that the success of this project will allow for further development of transit priority improvements along Highway 1 and the Island Highway as well as the creation of transit hubs in the Uptown area and 6 mile location.



## **DISCUSSION**

### Douglas Street

Following additional refinement of the design options on the segments between Fisgard and Hillside, the City of Victoria and BC Transit have engaged a consulting firm to commence detail design. Led by the City of Victoria, it is anticipated that City crews will commence work in mid-February and be complete this spring. The works will primarily include the removal of curb bulbs at Herold and Pembroke Streets, re-laning and minor curb modifications to accommodate bus only operations in both directions during peak periods of 0600-0900 and 1500-1800. At all other times, the lanes will continue to serve as parking.

A “groundbreaking” event has been planned for February 24, 2014 at 10am at Douglas St and Herald. The proposed event speakers will include: Minister Todd Stone, VRTC Susan Brice, Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin and BC Transit CEO Manuel Achadinha.

Design work for Phase 2, from Hillside to Tolmie will follow the Phase 1 work. Construction is tentatively scheduled to commence later this year with completion in 2015 and will tie into planning works from Tolmie to Uptown currently being undertaken by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

### Highway 1

The improvements along this segment of the corridor is being led by MoTI and is expected to include initiatives that further improve traffic flow for all modes of traffic. BC Transit is working with MoTI staff to identify viable opportunities that would specifically improve transit service such as dedicated bus lanes and bus on shoulder options.

### Transit Hubs:

The Transit Future Plan for Victoria identified the Uptown area and the 6 Mile area as the two key locations that would benefit from the creation of transit hubs (an exchange at Uptown and a park and ride at 6 Mile) to best serve the current and future network of transit.

The location at 6 Mile has been identified (Figure 1) and BC Transit has worked with the Province to secure the land for future development.

Figure 1: Proposed 6 Mile Park & Ride Location



In 2011, BC Transit, in partnership with the Province, purchased land in the Uptown Area (Figure 2) in anticipation of this transit exchange to ensure that the required footprint could be preserved for the future exchange. The land is being retained as a strategic land holdings and the costs have been covered by the Province until such time they are developed for use as a transit exchange.



Figure 2: Proposed Uptown Transit Hub Location



The design of these transit hubs has not been completed. The design process will include consultation and partnership between the local governments, the Commission, MoTI, and BC Transit.

## RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Achadinha'.

Manuel Achadinha  
President and Chief Executive Officer