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**SUBJECT: Island Highway Transit Priority Plan**

**PURPOSE**

To provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the Commission) an update on project planning activities and seek **APPROVAL** to use this information for budget development and to enter into Project Agreements with the City of Colwood and Town of View Royal to deliver the transit priority projects.

**BACKGROUND**

At the direction of the Commission, BC Transit, in partnership with municipal staff from View Royal and Colwood, advanced designs for transit priority along the Island Highway corridor between Goldstream Avenue and the Colwood Interchange to support the implementation of Rapidbus between the Westshore and Downtown Victoria. The transit priority concepts approved in principle by all parties are summarized in the table below. These concepts combine sections of dedicated bus lanes, queue jump lanes and transit signal priority to provide an estimated 20% transit travel time savings.

Location	Municipality	Recommended Treatment
Six Mile & Island Hwy Intersection	View Royal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southbound transit lane and transit signal priority</li> </ul>
Island Hwy – Dukrill Rd to Intersection with Hwy 1/Burnside Rd West	View Royal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southbound transit lane</li> <li>• Northbound shared right turn lane with queue jump transit lane at intersection</li> <li>• Transit signal priority at intersection</li> <li>• Signalization of Dukrill and relocation of bus stops</li> <li>• 1.8 metre painted buffered bike lanes</li> </ul>
Goldstream Ave & Island Highway/Sooke Rd Intersection	Colwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southbound queue-jump transit lane (delivered by developer)</li> <li>• Installation of transit priority signal equipment</li> </ul>
Wale Road & Island Highway Intersection	Colwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northbound and southbound queue-jump transit lane and transit signal priority</li> </ul>

BC Transit initiated the formation of a working group with McElhanney Engineering and local government staff in both Colwood and View Royal to refine and complete a detailed tender-ready design. The design is agreeable to all stakeholders and provides the basis for refined cost estimates for budget development. The process also included engagement with parties impacted by the design and construction activities. The Class C construction cost estimates suggest a total estimated construction cost of \$3.6 million for the Colwood section and \$4.63 million for the View Royal section. Estimates include construction costs, transit signal priority equipment, traffic management, engineering, project management, public engagement and a contingency of 20 per cent.

**DISCUSSION**

To advance the Island Highway Transit Priority projects BC Transit must receive budget approvals and programming from the Commission and complete an internal business case to secure Provincial funding.

Investments in roadway cannot be capitalized by BC Transit and the Commission and must be funded as a major operating project. The project costs apply cost sharing rates for conventional transit services in the region. Provincial funding available is 31.7 per cent. The Commission share is 68.3 per cent funded either through a property tax increase or from the Commission Transit Fund. The investments could be phased over two fiscal years.

Municipality	Recommended Treatment	Total Cost	Commission	Province
Colwood	Phase 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldstream installation of transit priority signal equipment</li> <li>• Wale Rd northbound and southbound queue-jump transit lane and transit signal priority</li> </ul>	\$3.6M	\$2.46M	\$1.14M
View Royal	Phase 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southbound transit lane</li> <li>• Northbound shared right turn lane with queue jump transit lane at intersection</li> <li>• Transit signal priority at intersection</li> <li>• Signalization of Dukrill and relocation of bus stops</li> <li>• 1.8 metre painted buffered bike lanes</li> </ul>	\$4.63	\$3.16M	\$1.47M

BC Transit will work with all parties to develop a phased implementation plan that addresses operational budget constraints. If approved, Phase 1 could be scheduled for the 2021/22 fiscal year and the budget would be amended to reflect the budget increase and Phase 2 could be scheduled for the 2022/23 fiscal year. Any unspent funds will be held in the Commission’s operating reserve and will be available for use to fund further transit priority investments or base service levels in future years.

With budget and phasing approvals achieved, BC Transit will confirm final design approvals by local government councils in early 2021 and develop project agreements with both Colwood and View Royal detailing project delivery.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Investments in transit priority on the Island Highway represent a priority investment in the region to implement Rapidbus. The increase can be funded through a contribution in operating dollars. It is recommended that the Commission **APPROVE** staff to budget for this project over the next two fiscal years and work with local governments to develop project agreements.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Wadsworth', written in a cursive style.

James Wadsworth  
Manager, Project Development