

---

**SUBJECT: PLANNING UPDATE**

**PURPOSE**

This update on transit planning activities in the Victoria Region is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **INFORMATION**.

**SERVICE CHANGES**

**Fall 2021 Seasonal Service Change (Effective September 6, 2021)**

With a return to in-person learning for post-secondary institutions and a further resumption of normal activities in the region, services have been scheduled based on anticipated demand and service will be added to meet increased needs in the Victoria Regional Transit System as required.

This change will provide increased service over and above the current summer-level service in the Victoria Regional Transit System, and includes additional trips implemented on a number of routes serving the University of Victoria and Camosun College, as well as an increased number of trips on many routes serving the Westshore and Saanich Peninsula.

**PLANNING INITIATIVES**

Work undertaken or proposed since the last Commission meeting includes:

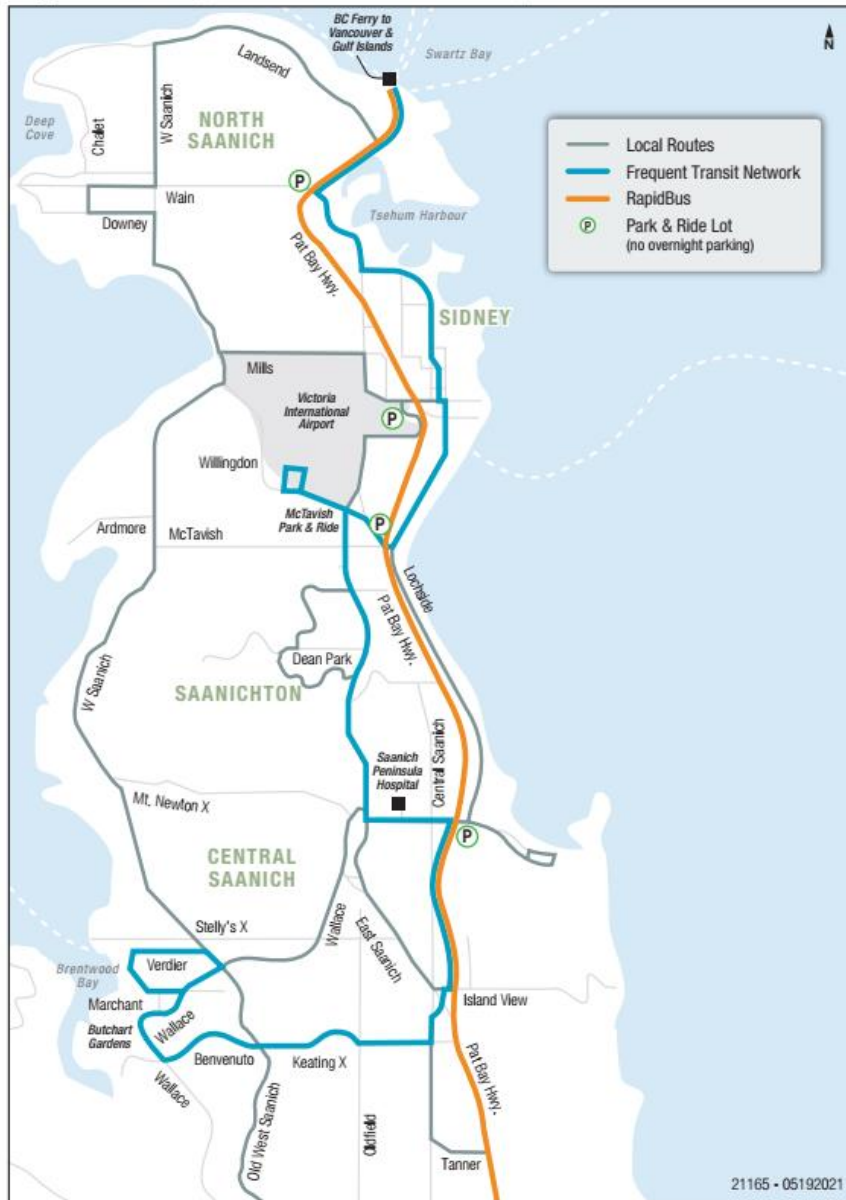
**Local Area Transit Plans**

Peninsula Local Area Transit Plan

Work on the Peninsula Local Area Transit Plan continues, with public engagement conducted from June 30 to July 28. Engagement was seeking additional feedback from the public on a number of elements including the following:

- Short-term proposed routing changes
- Service level improvement priorities
- Airport service
- Peninsula RapidBus
  - Included development of a new supporting Frequent Transit Network route on the Peninsula, connecting key origins and destinations on the Peninsula at a higher level of service while also integrating effectively with the proposed future Peninsula RapidBus Line
  - Included RapidBus routing options for Sidney
  - Included proposed infrastructure priorities such as Park & Rides and other RapidBus supportive infrastructure

## RapidBus Longer Term Network Concept



### West Shore Local Area Transit Plan Update

The West Shore Local Area Transit Plan Update process began in June. Watt Consulting Group was the successful proponent, and has been contracted to provide support on this project. Key goals for this plan include the following:

- Better aligning the transit network to recent and anticipated future development;
- Supporting the implementation of the Westshore RapidBus Line; and

- Confirming details for the April 2022 Westshore service expansion and network realignment<sup>1</sup>

### **Related Municipal Work and Transit Initiatives**

BC Transit participated in a number of local initiatives on behalf of the Commission over the last few months, including the following:

- **RapidBus Implementation Strategy** – This [strategy](#) is now complete. The strategy was made public on June 30<sup>th</sup> through a joint-release between BC Transit, the VRTC, the Province, and the Capital Regional District (CRD).
  - RapidBus is transit service that outperforms the personal automobile in speed, comfort and reliability. Over time, the RapidBus system will be implemented across several corridors to create a high capacity transit system.
  - The strategy introduces the flagship West Shore-Downtown Victoria Line in the next three years and then subsequent RapidBus lines across the region. Other possible RapidBus corridors include McKenzie and Peninsula routes, with possibilities of a long-term RapidBus service along many major roadways that connect to areas throughout the region.
  - Next steps include the formation of a committee and working group structure to support the implementation of the West Shore RapidBus Line, including staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), the CRD, and all adjacent local governments. Initial meetings for these groups is planned for September 2021.
  - Public engagement is proposed for fall 2021 in collaboration with the West Shore Local Area Plan.
  - Additional details on RapidBus infrastructure-related projects are summarized in the Infrastructure Update
- **Bus Stop Improvements** – BC Transit continues to work closely with local government partners within the Victoria Region to coordinate improvements to stop configurations and layout to improve accessibility and customer experience.
- **Development Referral Process** – BC Transit receives and responds to development referrals from local governments considering rezoning and large-scale development proposals. BC Transit provides comment on opportunities for transit supportive development, improvements to transit supportive infrastructure such as bus stops and sidewalks, and provides comments on the feasibility of future transit service to the proposed development.

Planning staff have received approximately 25 development referrals since the last Commission Meeting between June and August and provided comment to five local governments.

### **SERVICE MONITORING Ridership Performance Report**

---

<sup>1</sup>As indicated in the 2021/22 Annual Service Plan which was approved conceptually by the Commission in February 2021. Additional details on the April 2022 expansion and realignment will be presented to the Commission for endorsement at the November 2021 VRTC meeting.

The attached Ridership Performance Report provides information on ridership performance. It summarizes ridership over the spring 2021 service period from April 5 to June 28, 2021 and provides some evaluation of ridership trends through the period impacted by the COVID pandemic to June 28, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Respectfully,

Levi Megenbir  
Senior Transit Planner – Work Lead

Attachment: 12b Spring 2021 Ridership Performance Report