

SUBJECT: 2015/16 Service Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the 2015/16 Victoria Regional Service Plan to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the Commission) for **INFORMATION**.

BACKGROUND

BC Transit is required to submit annual operating and capital funding requests to the Province in November. As part of this annual process, BC Transit works with all local government partners to confirm their desire to maintain existing service levels and any service expansion for the following fiscal year. This process is required to allow BC Transit to accurately project funding requirements for all systems in its annual provincial budget request. In addition, this information guides detailed service planning and budget development for the following year.

The 2015/16 Service Plan for the Victoria Regional Transit System reflects the 5,000 hour service expansion approved by the Commission at its February 2014 meeting. Specifically, two buses and an annualized service increase of 5,000 conventional service hours.

DISCUSSION

The 2014/15 budget, approved in February 2014, included a service expansion of 5,000 annual service hours. This increase was budgeted to start January 2015. The 2015/16 Service Plan includes the annualization of this higher service level for the entire fiscal year (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016).

Next steps in the service and budget development process are:

December 2014 meeting:

- Staff will present a budget for 2015/16 based on this level of service for approval subject to provincial funding commitments.
- Given the lead time for ordering new buses, staff will also present a three-year service and financial strategy.

February 2015 meeting

- Once the level of provincial funding is confirmed, staff will present a final 2015/16 operating budget and associated taxation regulation for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission **RECEIVE** this report for information and direct staff to prepare the following reports for the December 2014 meeting:

1. A 2015/16 budget based on this level of service
2. A three-year service and financial strategy

Respectfully,

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

Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer