

Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan

Summary

1.0 Introduction

The Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan contains nine recommendations for service changes to routes that serve the Jubilee area. The Jubilee plan area encompasses the eastern neighbourhoods within the City of Victoria, the District of Oak Bay and the southeastern neighbourhoods of the District of Saanich north to the University of Victoria. Combined, the ten routes serving this area account for approximately a third of the Victoria Regional Transit System's total ridership.

The Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan builds upon the 25-year Transit Future Plan (2011) and the 2013/14 Service Review. Local area transit plans provide route changes to support the development of the Victoria Regional Transit System.

Recommendations were developed through extensive public engagement in accordance with transit planning principles to support the goals and objectives of the Victoria Region Transit Future Plan. **The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the engagement and the key findings to date. This information will then be integrated into the new Victoria Regional Transit Future Action Plan which begins in 2020.**



2.0 Public Engagement

Engagement is critical in providing transit staff with insights into community priorities and needs to enable the further shaping of service. Public engagement events for the Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan were carried out in two phases. Each phase included events developed for different audiences, various tools to solicit input and feedback and opportunities for one-on-one conversations with project staff.

In November 2017, phase one included three open houses (University of Victoria, Camosun College, and Oak Bay Recreation Centre) and an online survey was carried out to gather information on transit priorities and travel behavior within and through the Jubilee area. Open houses were held on November 15, 2017 and November 22, 2017, and received feedback from 141 participants. The following priorities were identified during this first phase of public consultation:

1. Desire for better local service to key locations within Oak Bay
 - Connect North and South Oak Bay to ensure residents can travel to local destinations such as Willows Beach and the library
2. Desire for increased frequency on frequent transit network corridors

- Increase weekend frequency on Oak Bay Avenue
- Increase weekend and weeknight service on Foul Bay Road
- Increase frequency at peak times to address passenger pass-ups on school oriented routes

3. Desire for a transit hub to provide more local and regional connections

- Provide more choices to travel to destinations without going downtown
- Preference to transfer to more direct service rather than travel on circuitous routes

The second phase of consultation presented draft route concepts through four open houses (University of Victoria, Camosun College, Oak Bay Recreation Centre, and Royal Jubilee Hospital) and an online survey. The survey received 993 responses.

3.0 Proposed Service Concepts

The following section provides a list of projects that were presented as part of the public engagement. Note that these service changes are for discussion purposes only and additional engagement may be required.

2.1 Proposed Network and Service Improvements
<p>A. Revise the routing of the 1 Richardson and establish a new route between Willows/Fairfield</p> <p>These two routes provide an efficient approach to providing local area service to core areas with lower ridership. The route 1 is proposed to travel further into Oak Bay to serve Oak Bay Marina, Oak Bay village core and the Royal Jubilee Hospital. In collaboration with the City of Victoria’s Bicycle Master Plan, opportunities are also being explored to adjust the route 1 to improve mobility options in the area.</p> <p>A new route between Willows and Fairfield would uncouple the portion of the 22 Vic General/Hillside Centre between downtown and Hillside Centre and extend service along Hillside Avenue to Lansdowne Middle School and Camosun College’s Lansdowne campus, down Cadboro Bay Road to Oak Bay’s Estevan neighbourhood, and through Oak Bay Village to Royal Jubilee Hospital.</p>
<p>B. Increase the route 2 Oak Bay/James Bay to Frequent Transit status and eliminate route variants</p> <p>The route 2 is a high ridership route with significant demand. The route presently includes two lower performing split-tailed variants that serve the south Oak Bay Terminus and the Estevan neighbourhood, which could be served by additional network changes. By terminating this route at Oak Bay Marina, local areas can be served more efficiently by a route with a lower level of service and savings can be added to increase service levels to Frequent Transit status.</p>
<p>C. Extend Service on the route 3 Jubilee/James Bay and route 10 James Bay/Royal Jubilee via Vic West by 1 hour later into the evening</p> <p>Route 3 connects James Bay, downtown Victoria, Cook Street Village, Fairfield/Gonzales, and Royal Jubilee Hospital via Fairfield and Foul Bay Road. The route 10 connects James Bay, Downtown Victoria, Vic West and the Royal Jubilee Hospital via Bay Street. This proposal simply recommends extending service from 8 pm to 9 pm on both existing routes.</p>

<p>D. Improve service frequency on Foul Bay Road</p> <p>Opportunities will continue to be explored to improve service frequency on Foul Bay Road which is a frequent-transit dedicated corridor. Possible options, that require further discussion and engagement, include the realignment of the route 14.</p>
<p>E. Terminate route 8 Interurban/Tillicum Centre/Oak Bay at Royal Jubilee Hospital</p> <p>This proposal recommends terminating the route 8 at the Royal Jubilee Hospital and discontinuing service into Oak Bay. This service change would be done in collaboration with other network change, which maintain service levels to Oak Bay. Note that additional engagement would be required.</p>
<p>F. Realign route 22 to provide service to Bay Street</p> <p>In collaboration with the City of Victoria’s Bicycle Master Plan, explore opportunities to realign the route 22 to service Bay Street instead of Haultain and provide any additional infrastructure and mobility improvements</p>
<p>2.2 Proposed Infrastructure Investments</p>
<p>A. Development of a Royal Jubilee Hospital multi-modal hub</p> <p>The Royal Jubilee Hospital Master Campus Plan 2015-2035 identifies the development of a transportation hub as a long-term goal. A multi-modal mobility hub at Royal Jubilee Hospital would provide centralized transfers between local and regional transit routes and access to other transportation modes at a key destination. The hub would ultimately be sited largely within the campus footprint, but would initially be developed as an on-street exchange in the next five to seven years.</p>
<p>B. Upgrade of University of Victoria Exchange and develop additional bus capacity</p> <p>With the increase in service between the University of Victoria (UVic) and Downtown, the downtown-bound portion of UVic Exchange (NW of Finnerty Road) requires capacity to accommodate future expansion. Sections of the UVic exchange are also past its life and showing significant wear. An engineering report providing design options was completed in February 2019.</p>
<p>2.3 Proposed Transit Amenities</p>
<p>A. Improve bus stop amenities</p> <p>The Jubilee plan area encompasses a number of stops with large volumes of passengers boarding with no shelter and minimal amenities. The public consultation carried out in the development of this plan indicated a desire for more shelters and improved amenities – such as garbage and recycling receptacles, street trees, wider sidewalks, and better lighting.</p>
<p>B. Creation of improved on-street schedule and wayfinding signage</p> <p>The plan recommends improved on-street schedule and wayfinding signage to provide easier access to transit and to direct and guide transit users.</p>

3.0 Next Steps

- Integration of this information into the Victoria Transit Future Action Plan (additional engagement expected)
- Integration of the short term service change recommendations into the Victoria Three Year Service and Financial Strategy
 - Service changes details may be further refined through additional detailed planning and scheduling work

- Integration of UVic Exchange Capital Planning as a high priority
- Integration of Jubilee Exchange Capital Planning as a medium term priority

