
SUBJECT: Downtown Victoria Bus Circulator Report

1.0 PURPOSE

A report has been prepared to describe service options for a circulator bus route in the downtown core for **INFORMATION** to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission.

2.0 BACKGROUND

On January 30th, 2014 the City of Victoria Council passed a resolution requesting BC Transit formally explore options for a fare paid and fare free circulator bus route in the downtown core. The request was supported with a motion by the Victoria Regional Transit Commission at the February 18th, 2014 meeting. BC Transit worked with the City of Victoria to develop the key assumptions used for analysis and BC Transit staff prepared the attached report that includes options and the associated expected costs.

3.0 DISCUSSION

The report included a review of existing downtown Victoria transit services as well as a review of downtown circulators in other communities. Options were developed that align with the City of Victoria's vision to support the downtown core with a transit service oriented to both residents and visitors. As per the City's requested parameters, the service would operate annually, seven days a week (from morning until early evening) and would connect key destinations in the north and south end of the downtown core. In order to meet these parameters and provide a service that would make the circulator bus route more attractive than walking within the downtown core, approximately six buses and \$1.4 million per annum in operating funding would be required. The local share of these costs would be approximately \$1,000,000 annually and operating costs could be offset by as much as \$300,000 dollars with revenue from a fare paid option.

The report makes the following conclusions:

1. Existing transit service levels in Downtown Victoria exceeds the Service Design Standards approved by the Commission;
2. Downtown Victoria is a walkable distance and a circulator route would need to be frequent enough to be competitive with walking or it would likely not be productive;
3. Downtown circulators are demanding of system resources even when they are productive. Downtown circulators in London, Vancouver, and Victoria (1987) have been canceled due to problems with productivity and/or cost-effectiveness;
4. Improvements to transit customer information could be considered to make downtown transit circulation easier to understand for customers new to transit;
5. Alternative options could be considered to improve downtown transit circulation such as restructuring existing transit services in conjunction with local transit to surrounding

neighborhoods or partnerships outside of the Victoria Regional Transit System Services;
and,

6. Directing new resources to a downtown circulator route may limit the Transit Commission's ability to implement strategic initiatives identified in the Victoria Regional 2011 Transit Future Plan and 2013/14 Service Review.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Transit Commission receive this report for **INFORMATION** to support future decision making in regards to determining service expansion priorities.

Respectfully,

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

Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: Victoria Downtown Core Bus Circulator Options Report