
SUBJECT: PLANNING UPDATE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Victoria Regional Transit Commission an update of transit planning activities for **INFORMATION**.

Service Update

- **Fall Service** – On September 4th, the fall service schedule was implemented and included improvements targeted on the most popular routes 4-UVic/Hillside, 11-UVic/Tillicum, 14-Vic General/UVIC via Richmond, 21-Interurban, 25-Maplewood/Admirals Walk and 26-Dockyard/UVic. The service change also included a service reduction on the route 1-Richardson due to low ridership performance over the last several years. An additional 5,000 annual hours of flexible service has been added to improve operational flexibility and service on handyDART was increased by 2,000 service hours to provide extra runs at peak times.
- **Winter Service** – If required, minor changes to the fall schedule may be implemented in January 2013 to accommodate new trends in travel patterns on the transit system.
- **School District 63- Saanich School Bell Times** - School District 63 and the district's school bus operator were unable to confirm school bell times prior to the finalization of the September 2012 schedule. As a result, some of the bell times do not align with the scheduled transit service. BC Transit continues to work with School Districts to communicate the lead time required to align bell times with transit schedules.
- **Special events and construction projects** – These events and projects sometimes require detour routings and in some cases additional operating resources to deliver service and meet passenger demand.

Recent and upcoming special events,

- **Saanichton Fair** – Additional special service on the Route 75-Saanichton
- **Labour Day weekend** – Additional special service for BC Ferries trips
- **Luxton Rodeo** – Additional special service if required
- **Remembrance Day** – Detours only: Legislature, Esquimalt, Colwood and Sooke
- **Victoria Santa Parade** – Detours only
- **Sidney Santa Parade** – Detours only
- **Langford Christmas Fire Truck Parade** – Detours and possibly additional service to maintain scheduled service
- **Christmas Light Truck Parade** – Detours and possibly additional service to maintain scheduled service

Construction projects

- **Fortis BC project at Helmcken and West Burnside** – Has created delays to service on Route 22 and 39
- **Spencer Interchange** – Completion date is summer to fall 2013 and will require permanent bus route changes
- **Craigflower Bridge replacement** – postponed to next year, exact date to be determined
- **Blue Bridge replacement** – exact construction dates unknown at this time

Planning Initiatives

- **Service Review** – A draft of the Service Performance Guidelines was presented to the Commission at an August 20th workshop. Feedback received from the Commission has been incorporated into the final document and is included in a separate Commission report for approval.
- **Transit Priority Studies** – BC Transit received approval from the Commission to proceed with transit priority planning on five key corridors. A RFP was issued for consulting services to complete the analysis and scope of work for three of the corridors; Douglas, McKenzie and Island Highway. The successful proponent, Urban Systems, has commenced work on assembling and reviewing background information from various sources including local municipalities and BC Transit. Initial meetings with each stakeholder are underway to review existing plans and policies that will be used to guide the subsequent phases of the project. BC Transit will continue to work with MoTI to ensure the recommendations of the Ministries Hwy 1 and 17 corridor studies align with the BC Transit transit priority study.
- **Facilities Master Plan** – BC Transit has commenced a review of the existing operating and maintenance facilities, in order to develop a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan that will address the transit system's facility needs over the next 20 years. Recommendations will align with the objectives outlined in the approved Transit Future Plan for the Victoria region.
- **UVIC Campus Transit Plan** - The existing transit exchange at UVic is at capacity during peak travel times and additional capacity is required to accommodate the existing transit services and future growth. Development of a new transit exchange at UVic has been identified as one of the key priorities of the Transit Future Plan. BC Transit, in consultation with UVic staff, is in the process of developing a Campus Transit Plan that recommends short-term and long-term opportunities to add bus capacity, as well as other transit supportive strategies that could be implemented to improve ridership and the transit experience for customers. The Campus Transit Plan has included consultation with students and staff. BC Transit will present the finalized plan to the Commission later this fall along with recommendations to move forward on short-term options to improve transit exchange capacity.

Infrastructure Projects

- **Sayward Transit Priority** – MoTI will be constructing a new transit priority queue-jumper lane, bus stop pullout and shelter along with other safety improvements on the south side of the Hwy 17/Sayward intersection. BC Transit staff participated in the working group for this project with representatives from the local community, Saanich and CRD parks in 2011 to help identify the key safety concerns and make recommendations for improving the intersection.
- **BC Transit Shelter Program** - BC Transit and the participating municipalities have approved plans to install 42 bus shelters in 2012/13 and 18 shelters in 2013/14 in the Victoria Regional Transit System. Work has begun on the installation of the 42 bus shelters scheduled for 2012/13.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,



Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer