

SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

PURPOSE

This report on transit-related infrastructure projects in the Victoria Region is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **INFORMATION**.

DISCUSSION

ACTIVE PROJECTS:
BC Transit Bus Shelter Program

Solicitation for shelters for the 20/21 program identified a desire for 29 shelter locations. Initial funding satisfied nine of these requests. Subsequently a new application for federal funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) was approved in September 2020 and established another five years of funding. The shelter program will continue to provide 40 per cent funding towards eligible costs. With this approval additional shelters were added to this year’s program. A summary of shelters accommodated within the 20/21 program is provided in the table below.

Region	Number of Shelters Requested	First Round Shelters Approved	Second Round Shelters Approved	Total 2020/21 Shelters	Shelters Installed to Date
Saanich	14	4	4	8	0
Sooke	5	0	0	0	0
Oak Bay	1	1	0	1	1
Colwood	2	2	0	2	2
Central Saanich	3	1	2	3	0
Sidney	1	0	1	1	0
Langford	3	1	2	3	1
TOTAL	29	9	9	18	4

CNG Fueling and Facility Modifications

As part of the Low Carbon Fleet program and the introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses in Victoria, CNG fueling infrastructure is in regular operations at the Langford Transit Centre (LTC). This project provided on-site CNG fueling and the necessary modifications to the maintenance garage required to maintain CNG buses at both LTC and the Victoria Transit Centre (VTC). The phased construction of facility upgrades that includes gas detection, safety alarms, and air evacuation system upgrades are complete and in service with minor outstanding scope to be completed in the coming months.

handyDART Centre

The new handyDART centre at 2401 Burnside Road in View Royal supports increasing demands for handyDART services in the region enabling the BC Transit Low Carbon Fleet Strategy. This federal ICIP funded project will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements and is planned to open in 2023. The initial gasoline fueled fleet will be converted to battery electric starting at opening with the deployment of five electric buses ahead of ongoing conversion of the fleet over the following years. BC Transit entered into a MOU with the Town of View Royal to meet local development requirements in addition to all Provincial and Federal environmental protection standards.

The BC Election put community engagement on hold but plans are being prepared to reengage with our community stakeholders. Outreach to First Nations continues with a tentative site visit scheduled for the Esquimalt Nation.

Design has progressed to 30 per cent (schematic design) that describes building massing and layout. Remaining site grading and elevations are also being developed. An agreement has been reached with BC Hydro regarding the treatment of the transmission tower on site and discussions are ongoing between MOTI and Rogers Communications with regard to the redesign of communications equipment co-located with the transmission tower.

An agreement in principle has been reached between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and Capital Regional District (CRD) Water to relocate the existing water main corrosion control systems to a location complementary with the re-alignment of the Galloping Goose regional trail. BC Transit will be formulating a partnership with CRD to deliver these works.

A body of water within the project site, previously thought to be a ditch has been reclassified as a stream and will require a considerably more complex design approach to meet provincial and federal regulations and will have an implication to the project schedule.

Due to these multiple significant design challenges, site preparation works is now anticipated to commence in spring of 2021, with full construction mobilization in the fall of 2021.

PROJECTS IN PLANNING OR DEVELOPMENT

Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan

BC Transit is in the process of developing an update to the 25-Year Operations and Maintenance Facilities Master Plan. The first phase of the study is underway which includes the development of short term actions that can be implemented to increase efficiency and capacity of these facilities including bus storage. Phase 1 is expected to be completed early in the new year. The second stage deliverable will be a comprehensive report that will highlight existing issues, project future growth, and develop functional requirements, engineering concepts, order of magnitude costs, and a phased investment workplan for a 25-year timeframe. The study is expected to be complete in March 2021 and will provide inputs for future project business case(s) to support provincial and federal funding application(s).

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Transit Related Projects

There are a number of transit infrastructure initiatives that MOTI is advancing that supports the development of the Victoria Regional Transit System including:

Projects

- **McKenzie Interchange** - Highway 1 bus lanes and transit stations continue to be constructed as part of the McKenzie interchange, the bus lanes and transit zones are substantially complete and bus shelters will be installed this fall. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020.
- **Highway 14 Connie Rd to Glinz Lake Rd Realignment and Park & Ride** – The highway 14 realignment includes a new park & ride near Connie Rd and new transit stops with bus pullouts to improve safety and passenger amenities. It is anticipated construction will start in this fiscal year.

Planning Studies

- **Uptown Mobility Hub Study** – MOTI is advancing planning work to develop transit and active transportation priorities and improvements to serve the near-term goals that will align with the future development of the Uptown site and not preclude the long-term plan. This plan will support BC Transit advancing long-term plans for the Uptown Transit Hub and Transit Oriented Development opportunities.
- **Highway 1 Bus Priority Planning** – MOTI is advancing planning work along the Douglas Street/Hwy 1 Corridor to support existing BC Transit initiatives. This work includes exploring transit priority treatments that align with the BC Transit priorities identified through the Victoria Transit Future Plan.
- **Highway 17 Transit Facilities** - MOTI is advancing planning work along the Highway 17 corridor to explore transit priority treatments to support BC Transit Initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,

Levi Timmermans
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