

SUBJECT: PLANNING UPDATE

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

New Operational Service Issues

- **Hillside Mall** – Hillside Mall is undergoing a major expansion on the east side of the mall, which is scheduled to commence in early June. This construction project will impact access to the mall on North Dairy Rd, internal traffic circulation and will require temporary closure of parking in some locations. The terminus for the Route 22-Hillside Mall/Vic General is located at the north entrance of Sears. The ability for buses to access the terminus may be restricted during the construction period. BC Transit is working with the mall and City of Victoria staff to identify alternate locations and routings during the construction period. Possible delays from detour routing may impact the on-time performance of this route.

New Planning Initiatives

- **Transit Priority Studies** – BC Transit has received approval from the Commission to proceed with transit priority planning on five key corridors. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being developed for consulting services to complete the analysis and scope of work. The RFP is being developed in consultation with municipal partners, the CRD and MoTI and will be issued in early June.
- **Service Review** – A Terms of Reference has been completed and is being submitted for approval to the Commission as a separate report. The Service Review includes the development of transit service performance standards based on the Transit Future Plan service hierarchy to measure, monitor, and prioritize transit resource allocation. The plan will recommend transit service changes that align with the Transit Future Plan, improve service to customers and improve the effectiveness of the transit system.
- **Three-Year Service & Financial Strategy** – A separate report for the three-year Service and Financial Strategy has been prepared for the Commission. The development of the draft three-year strategy will occur over the summer and includes a fare strategy, three-year base budgets, expansion scenarios and the associated infrastructure investments required to support the implementation of additional services (e.g., new operations and maintenance facility).
- **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.

Upcoming Service Changes

- **Service Planning**

- **June 2012** (conventional summer schedule) will be implemented June 25th.
- **September 2012** (conventional fall schedule) is in development and will be implemented September 3rd.

On-going Infrastructure Planning

- **Douglas Street Transit Signal Priority** – The project is now operational, and will be monitored to assess the benefits realized as a result of this initiative.
- **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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,



Manuel Achadinha
President and Chief Executive Officer