
SUBJECT: PLANNING UPDATE

PURPOSE

This update on transit planning activities in the Victoria Region is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the "Commission") for **INFORMATION**.

SUMMARY

Fall 2018 Service Changes

Fall service changes included seasonal increases in service to match ridership demand and an expansion of 10,000 annualized service hours. Two new routes were added to the transit system:

- **9 UVic/Royal Oak via Gorge/Hillside:** A crosstown route that connects the Camosun College Interurban Campus with the University of Victoria
- **87 Sidney/Dean Park via Airport:** A route through the Dean Park neighbourhood that connects the Saanichton Exchange, McTavish Exchange and Downtown Sidney

There were also some improvements to routes serving the Peninsula including:

- 81 Brentwood/Sidney/Swartz Bay/Saanichton: routing and schedule changes
- 83 Sidney/Brentwood/Royal Oak: routing and schedule changes, including extending weekend service to Royal Oak
- 85 North Saanich: introducing weekend service
- 88 Airport Sidney: schedule changes to provide connections with 72 Downtown/Swartz Bay

The attached Fall Service Summary provides further details on the above changes.

Holiday Service (Effective: December 3, 2018)

Reduced service levels will be operated during December to better match ridership demand and allow for additional improvements to schedule reliability. Service reductions primarily include trips oriented to the post-secondary schools as transit ridership is lower when schools are not in full session. Holiday service reductions allow for higher service in the fall and winter times of the year with higher demands of service.

Winter 2019 Service Changes

The Winter 2019 Service plan will include minor routing changes to Peninsula oriented routes to take advantage of the new transit activated priority signal to route to the Douglas Street bus lanes. If approved by the Commission, routing will be changed effective Monday December 31, 2018 as part of the regular Winter Service Change. Further details are provided in Report # 8: Winter 2019 Route Changes.

SERVICE PLANNING INITIATIVES

Work undertaken or proposed since the last Commission meeting includes:

Local Area Transit Plans

Staff are finalizing the 2017/2018 Local Area Transit Plans for Jubilee and Burnside-Tillicum, while initiating the 2018/19 plans for Sooke, Broadmead/Cordova Bay and Esquimalt/View Royal.

- **Burnside-Tillicum and Jubilee Local Area Transit Plans**
 - Public engagement events are being planned for November to present transit service improvement concepts to the public for input.
 - A final report will be presented to the Commission at the March meeting.
- **2018/19 Local Area Transit Plans**
 - Initiated Sooke, Esquimalt/View Royal and Broadmead/Cordova Bay Local Area Transit Plan process.
 - Meeting with municipal staff in each of the respective communities
 - Open houses will be held in September and October to identify transit priorities and challenges in each of the respective plan areas.

Open House Schedule

Plan	Date	Location
Esquimalt & View Royal	September 25	CFB Esquimalt
	September 25	Country Grocer Plaza
	September 26	Admirals Walk
Sooke	October – Confirming Dates & Locations	
	October – Confirming Dates & Locations	
	October – Confirming Dates & Locations	
Cordova Bay/Broadmead	October 9 f	Royal Oak Exchange
	October 10	Matticks Farm
	October 11	Broadmead Village

FLEET INITIATIVES

- **Vehicle Replacement** – Seven new Vicinity medium duty buses will replace seven ARBOC Light Duty buses to provide additional capacity on local routes.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING INITIATIVES

- **Uptown Exchange** – BC Transit received a letter from the District of Saanich providing context for their role in a planning study for the Uptown Exchange. The letter will inform changes to the Terms of Reference.
- **Island Highway Priority Study** – BC Transit received the final report for the Island Highway Transit Priority Study identifying concepts for transit priority measures along the Island Highway Corridor. The report is being presented to municipal councils for approval in principle. Pending approval from Councils, a proposed budget and a recommendation to move forward to detailed design with the construction packages will be brought to the December Commission Meeting.

The Island Highway Priority Study also analysed future Park & Ride locations in the Westshore. Currently, 374 formal Park & Ride stalls are provided, but the current locations are oversubscribed, estimating a shortfall of 244 structured stalls. The study forecasted future Park & Ride demand using projected municipal populations and estimated an additional 611 stalls will be required by 2038. Park & Ride locations were identified through local staff and available properties for sale within +/- 500m of the proposed frequent transit corridors identified in the Transit Future Plan.

A qualitative evaluation process identified three preferred locations:

- 6 Mile Road / Colwood interchange – estimated capacity of 239 stalls
- Station Ave near Veterans Memorial Parkway – estimated capacity of 145 stalls
- Luxton Fairgrounds – estimated capacity of 93 stalls

Conceptual geometric layouts and an order of magnitude budget were developed for the preferred locations. The Park & Ride options will be presented to the respective municipal councils for approval in principle. Following this, the concepts will be brought to the Commission for endorsement to move into detailed design.

- **Westshore Transit Priority Study** – A request for proposals is in development to solicit proposals for a planning study to look at transit priority measures along key transit corridors in the Westshore. This study will:
 - Support changes to the transit network to develop rapid transit and frequent transit connections between the Westshore and Downtown Victoria.
 - Integrate public realm improvements and land use changes to support the development of “complete streets” and the future introduction of rapid and frequent transit corridors
 - Support a connected, sustainable and balanced transportation network
 - Improve and enhance the efficiency of transit operations
 - Balance infrastructure and circulation for business traffic, pedestrian mobility, access to future transit infrastructure, bicycle network, parking and truck traffic needs
- **Bus Shelter Program** – Letters were sent to local government staff to confirm the locations for the 2018/19 program. Installations are anticipated for the Fall of 2018 through Spring 2019.

Related Municipal Plans and Local Initiatives

BC Transit participated in a number of local initiatives on behalf of the Commission over the last few months, including the following:

- **Oak Bay Council** – BC Transit staff presented an update on the Jubilee Local Area Transit Plan process. Staff also highlighted 2017/18 initiatives and provided an update regarding initiatives planned for 2018/19.
- **CRD Board** – BC Transit staff provided a Transit Future Plan update to CRD Board members. Staff highlighted successes from the past year and provided an update regarding initiatives planned for 2018/19.
- **North Saanich Council** – Staff presented the Fall 2018 service changes to North Saanich council, highlighting improvements to service the Victoria International Airport.
- **Butchart Gardens** – BC Transit planning and operations staff met with staff at Butchart Gardens to discuss summer service and operational challenges.

- **Fort Street Corridor Discussion** – BC Transit staff and UNIFOR reps met with City of Victoria staff to review operations along the Fort Street corridor and identify bus stop improvements to inform the City of Victoria’s capital plan for 2018/19.
- **BC Transit Bus Rodeos** – BC Transit held a bus rodeo for Peninsula local government staff to give transportation planners and engineers an opportunity to experience what it is like to be a transit operator. An obstacle course was set up with similar road widths and bus stops that can be found in each of the respective communities and staff were given the opportunity to drive a 40-foot and double decker bus. A rodeo is being set up for Westshore transportation planning and engineering staff in October.
- **Downtown Victoria Business Association** – BC Transit staff participated as a member of the Parking Committee, initiated by the DVBA. The goal is to find immediate, short-term solutions to increase customer/client parking requirements.
- **Development Referrals** -Transit’s development referral process enables local governments to send larger-scale development, or rezoning proposals, to BC Transit for comment. From June 5 through August 30, BC Transit has received and commented on 25 development referrals from municipal partners (Colwood-3, Langford-9, Sooke-8, View Royal–1, Saanich–3, Central Saanich-1);

RECOMMENDATION

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

Respectfully,

James Wadsworth
Planning Manager

Attachment: Fall 2018 Service Summary