



Draft Victoria Regional Transit Plan- Update

Township of Esquimalt
June 2026



Presentation Purpose

The purpose of today's presentation is to:

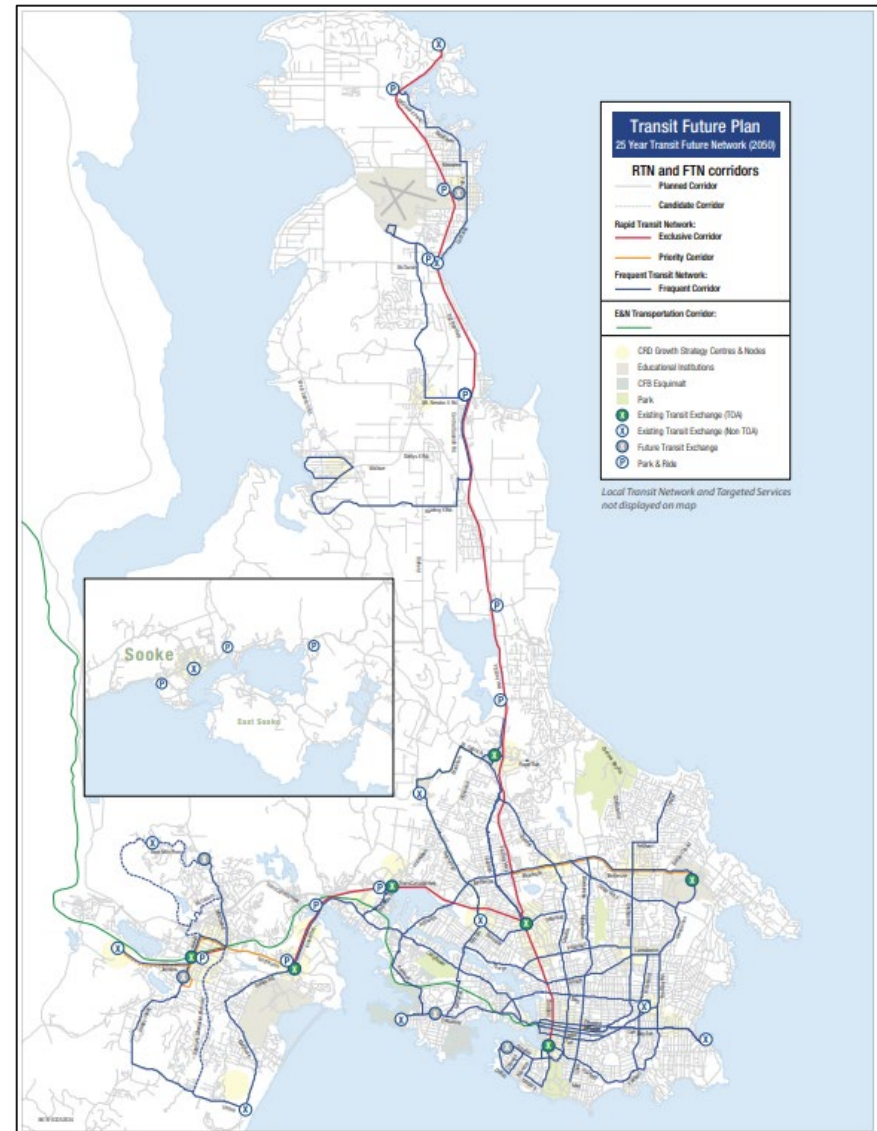
- Provide an overview and status update for the **Victoria Regional Transit Plan** and the next steps.
- To introduce the proposed "**Big Moves**" for the transit system within the proposed 25-year timeline

Presentation for INFORMATION and discussion.



Victoria Regional Transit Plan - Project Overview

- *The Victoria Regional Transit Plan will:*
- Establish a **25-year vision** for the regional network which will align with anticipated growth and travel patterns
- Develop comprehensive **Network and Route Design Guidelines** which will shape the evolution of the network over 25 years
- Guide future **infrastructure investment**, including the new Saanich Transit Centre to support fleet growth and **Rapid Transit** priorities



Victoria Regional Corridor Strategy 2024

Integrating Policy Changes

Provincial "Setting The Ground Rules for Compact, Transit-Oriented Growth"

- **Bill 47** required municipalities to designate TOAs in 5 CRD jurisdictions (Colwood, Langford, Saanich, Victoria, View Royal)
- Mandates **minimum density** and building heights near transit + eliminates parking minimums
- Refreshed South Island Transportation Plan Strategic Framework **emphasizing land use and transportation integration.**

Regional "Building Capacity for Coordinated Transportation Planning"

- CRD has launched the **Regional Transportation Service** to enable shared transit/land-use decision-making
- Setting regional **mode-shift targets** and funding origin–destination travel surveys to support evidence-based decision-making
- Providing support and resources to align municipal OCPs and regional growth planning with transit priorities

Municipal "Aligning Land Use & Mobility to Support Transit"

- Local governments are **modernizing their OCPs and zoning bylaws**, prioritizing growth along transit corridors and in centres.
- **Parking policies are changing** with minimums removed or reduced, and TDM plans now required in many areas.
- Increasing focus on **active and multimodal access**, with street and trail investments that support future transit use.

BC Transit Accomplishments



Get on board!

KIDS 12 & UNDER RIDE FREE



Current System



58 routes



303 conventional buses

56 handyDART buses



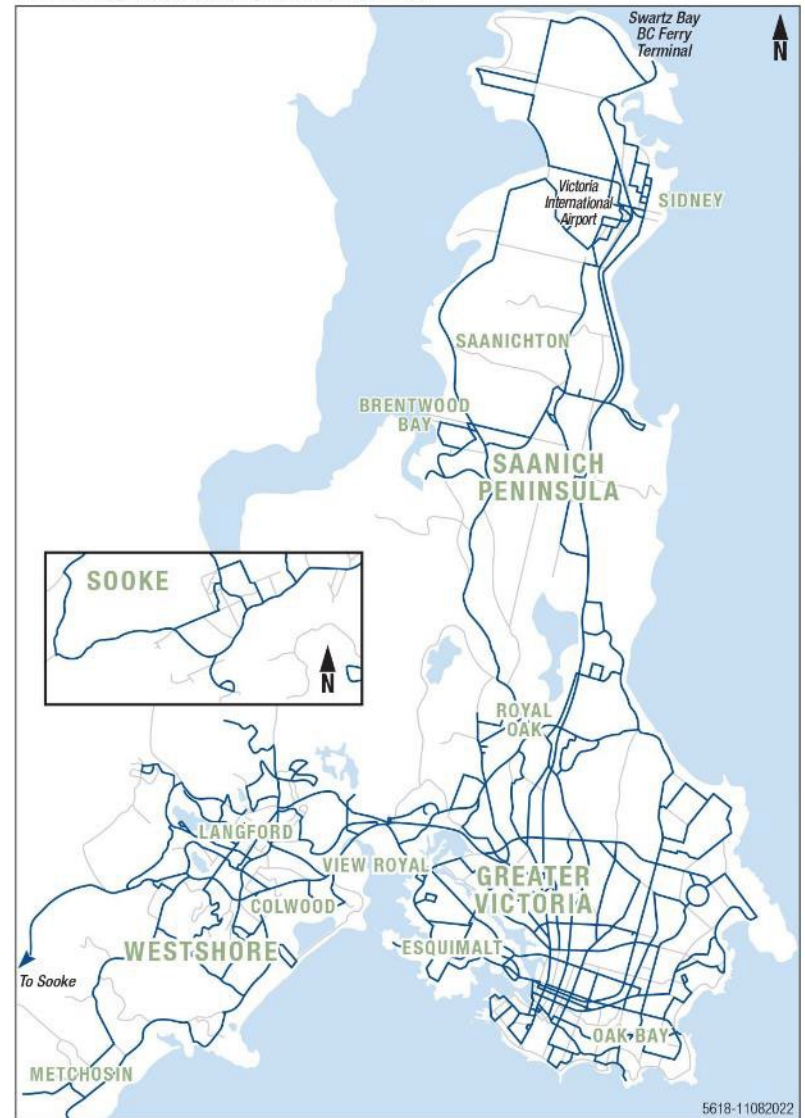
869,000 hours



26+ million rides

Region exceeds peer average in ridership per capita and service hours per capita

Victoria Regional Transit System Service Area



Engagement

Public engagement:

1,857 online survey responses

350+ open house participants

23 stakeholder groups consulted

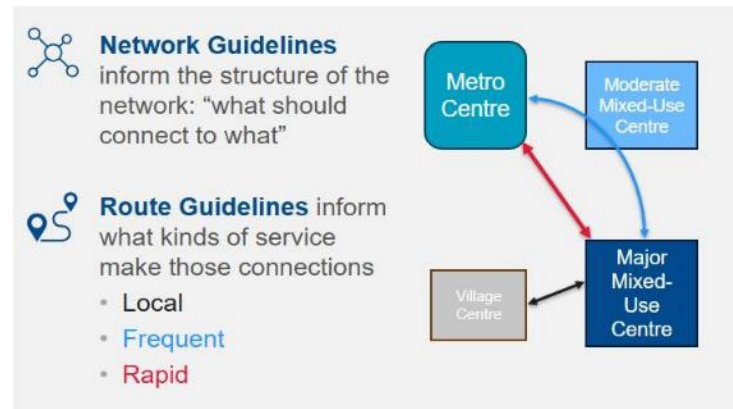
Plus, workshops with local government partners, regional key stakeholders and major employers, and local neighbourhood associations.

- Desire for **improved frequency**, and improved service reliability
- Interest and support for more **Rapid Transit**
- Desire for simplified routes and direct connections



Network and Route Guidelines

- Establishes a **demand-based framework** for making service decisions
- **Provides clarity** to public, local government partners, and BC Transit around **what kinds of service are expected** in different development patterns
- **Modernizes existing service layers** and aligns standards to better serve the region into the future



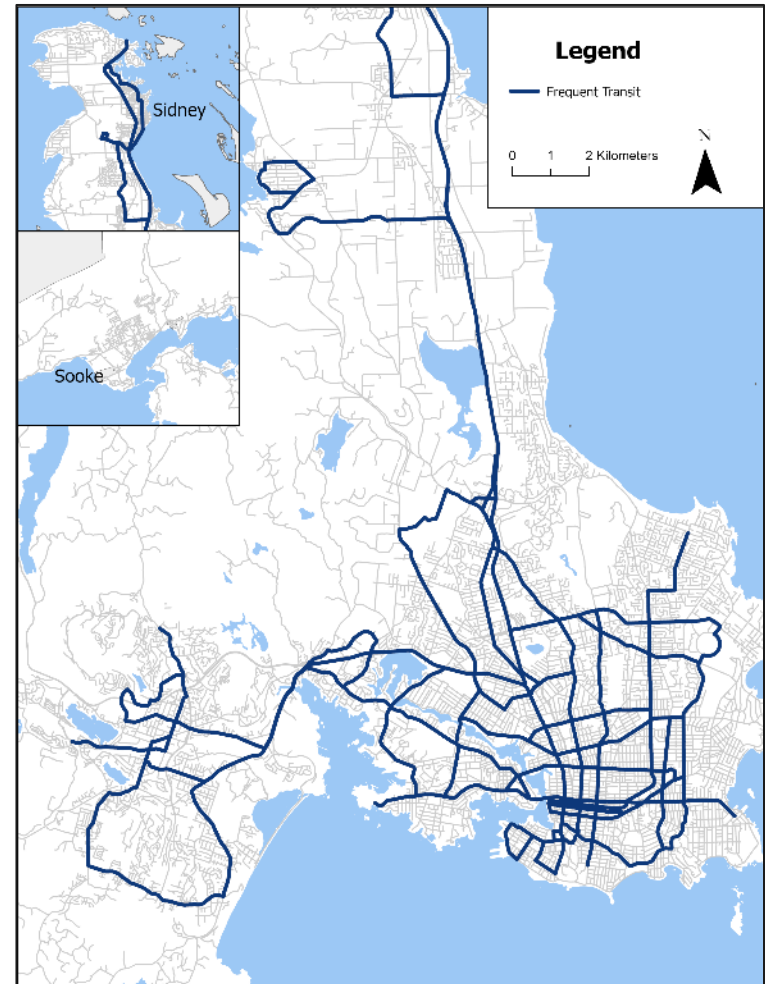
Draft Big Moves

- **Aligns network** with local and regional land use policies
- Modernizes and **expands network** to serve future residents
- Implements and expands **Rapid Transit** services
- **Improves connections** between communities within the CRD
- Supports modernization of **handyDART**



Big Moves: Network Modernization

- Building out a **Frequent Transit grid** will provide reliable service and better trips
- **Regional** and **Limited Stop** services will provide faster travel options for some trips
- Low density and rural areas may see improved service with **Digital On-Demand**



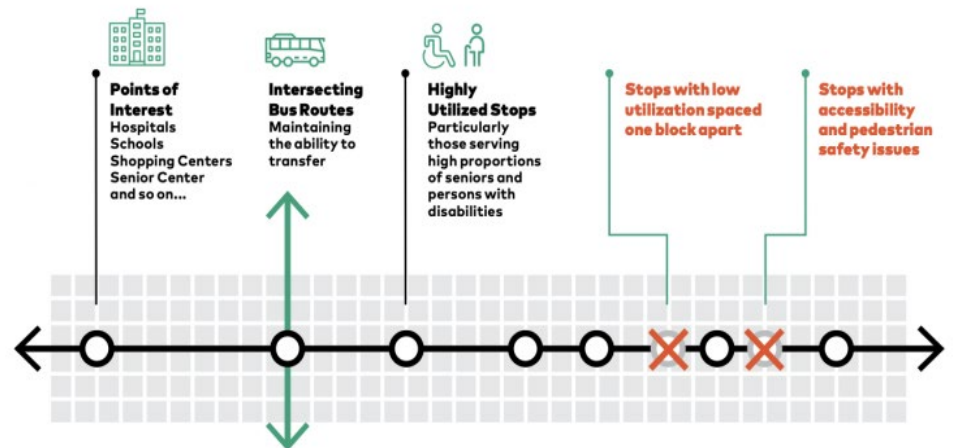
Big Moves: Network Modernization

Current funding constraints exist with consideration to service expansion. BC Transit is exploring opportunities to use what resources we have to improve transit service while waiting for new funding.

Optimization & Efficiency Improvements

- **Reduced service duplication** making service more efficient, allowing for resources to be strategically allocated.
- **Harmonized stop spacing** to speed up buses and make service simpler
- *Spacing farther apart on major corridors (up to 500m instead of 300m) but remain closer through neighborhoods on basic/local routes.*

The Basics of Bus Stop Balancing



Big Moves: handyDART Modernization

- **handyDART facility in View Royal**- Opened Spring 2025. Supporting increased fleet and service growth to meet latent demand.
- **Technology upgrades** to enhance eligibility, booking and trip planning and improve service efficiency
- Updated **service standards** and **performance guidelines**



Big Moves: Higher-Order Rapid Transit

- **Downtown Victoria to Six Mile** alignment is confirmed
- Alignment from **Six Mile to Langford** to be confirmed through **additional study**
- Higher-order technology will be reviewed as part of future planning work
- **Additional Rapid Transit** corridors in West Shore will be considered based on final alignment of Higher Order Transit



Priorities and Opportunities: Township of Esquimalt

- Transit exchange in the Esquimalt Town Centre on Esquimalt Road.
 - *Supports improved connectivity between local and regional services.*
- Ensuring **transit-supportive land-use** around key corridors to support future Frequent Transit Network (Craigflower, Esquimalt, Admirals, Lampson)
- Consider impacts to transit on key corridors to support improved transit speed, reliability and frequency.
 - Could include targeted interventions at key intersections (queue-jumpers).
 - Could include acquiring RoW at key intersections through redevelopment.



Next Steps

- Presenting draft plan to all Municipalities and CRD
- Updating key stakeholders and rightsholders for final feedback
- Draft plan presented to Commission in July



Thank You!

Levi Megenbir, *Manager, Service Planning (Victoria Regional Transit)*
lmegenbir@bctransit.com

For more information please visit bctransit.com/victoria