

# BC Transit Update

April 15, 2024

# Outline

- Victoria Regional Transit System Overview
- Strategic Planning and Expansion Update
- Esquimalt Service and Service Planning
- BC Transit Initiatives
  - Umo
  - Fare Review
  - NextRide
  - Low Carbon Fleet Program
  - Bus Shelter Program
- Questions



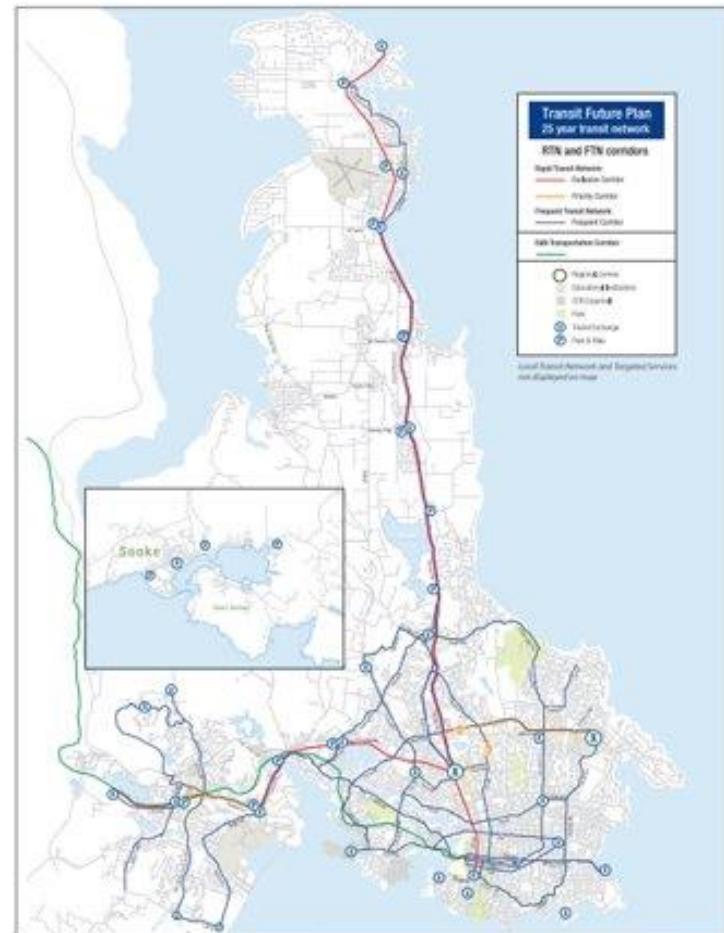
# Victoria Regional Transit System Overview

## Conventional Transit

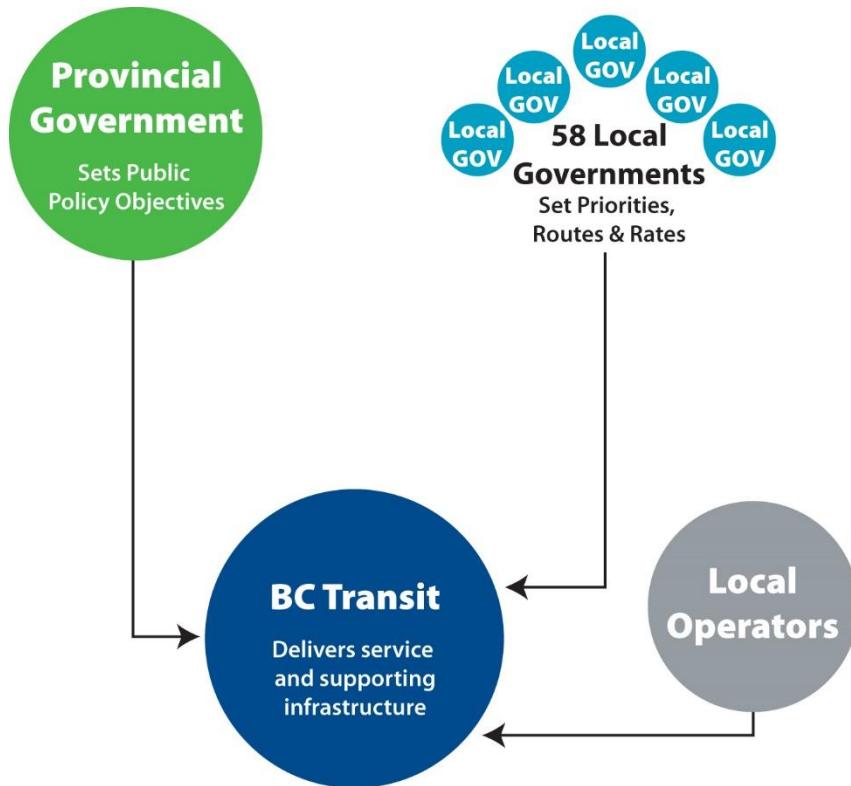
- Fixed routes and schedules
  - 57 transit routes
- 22.4 million boardings in 2022/23
- Range of vehicles, services:
  - Double Deckers
  - 30' 35' 40' vehicles
  - Community shuttles

## Custom Transit (handyDART)

- Door to door, demand responsive
- Eligible people with a disability
- Operated by First Canada ULC
- Supported by taxi programs



# System Operates Through Partnership: BC Transit's Model



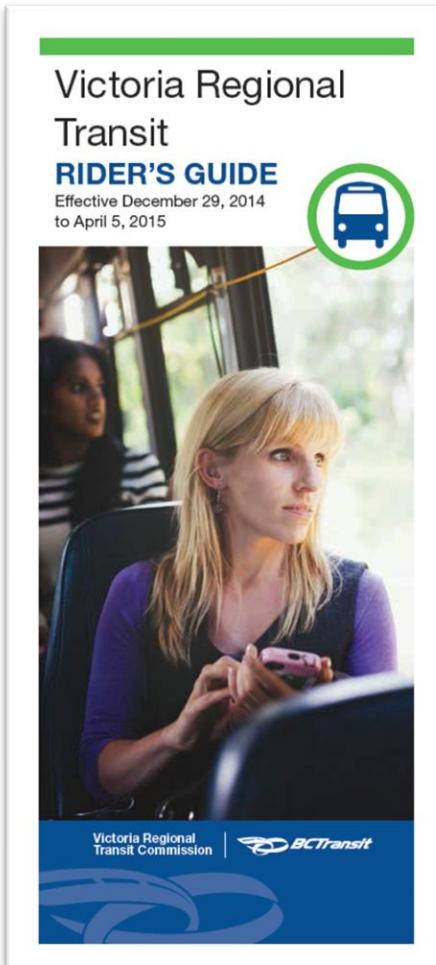
## Victoria Regional Transit Commission

- Plans community, establishes transit priorities and routes
- Sets service levels and approves budgets
- Set fares
- Provide local tax subsidy

## BC Transit

- Turns VRTC priorities into transit operating and capital plans
- Works with Province to access funding
- Operates Victoria conventional service
  - Custom Transit operated via contracted service provider
- Manages capital program

# Background: Victoria Regional Transit Commission



- Established under the *British Columbia Transit Act*
  - Local government representation for transit services in the CRD
- Eight elected local government officials are appointed by the Province
- Chair is designated by the Minister responsible for BC Transit
- Appointment process, composition and term described in the *Act*
- Staff, resources and contracted services provided by BC Transit

# Local Government Collaboration

- Bus stops and shelters
- Collaboration on infrastructure for multi modal transportation (municipalities responsible for roads)
- Local planning initiatives (OCP etc.)
- Development Referrals
- Stakeholder engagement
- Collaboration with MOTI on Highways infrastructure
- Collaboration with CRD on regional growth strategies, regional parks and trails

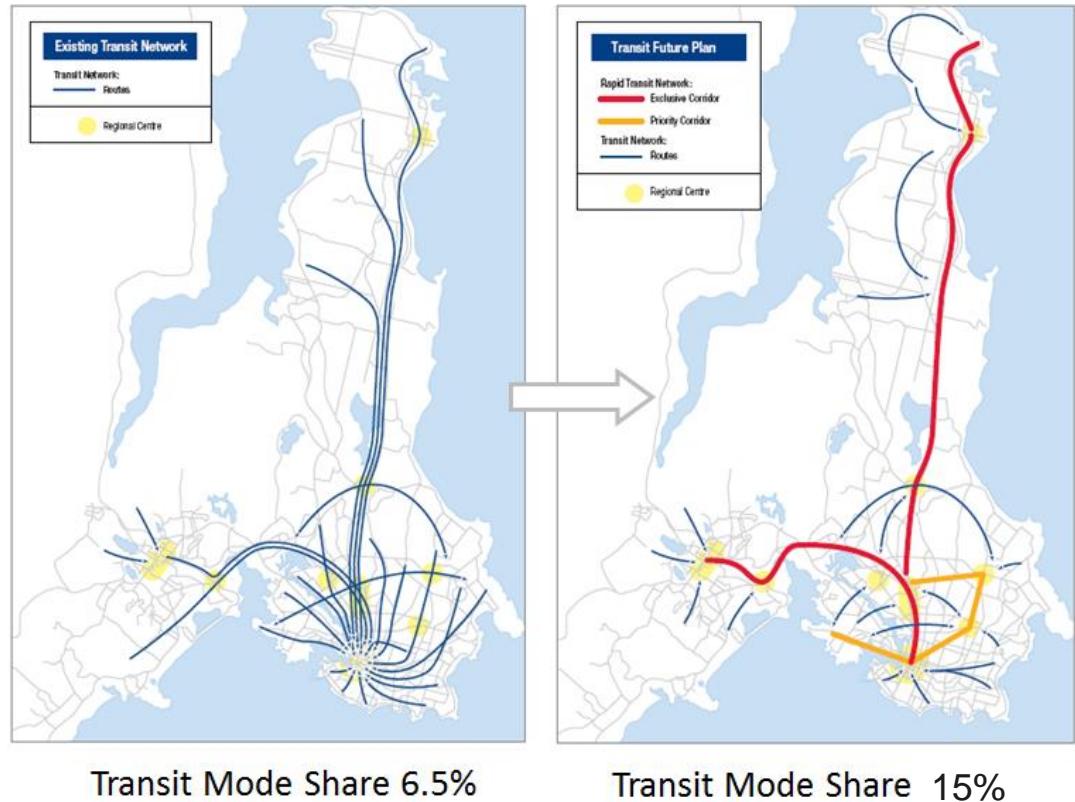


# Transit Future Plan

BC Transit developed a 25-year transit plan for the region, which included development of the Transit Future Network

The Transit Future Network uses four layers of transit service:

- Rapid Transit
- Frequent Transit
- Local Transit
- Targeted Services



# Future Service Expansion

## Approved by the VRTC in 2023/24:

- 2024/25: 20,000 hours, 8 buses\*
- 2025/26: 30,000 hours, 12 buses
- 2026/27: 40,000 hours, 16 buses
  - \*Provincial Budget supports 2024/25 expansion

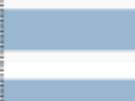
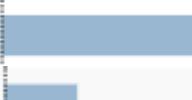
## Key strategic service investments priorities:

- RapidBus and Frequent Transit Network service improvements
- Development of the crosstown network on the Hillside/Gorge and Admirals/McKenzie (Route 40) corridors
- Simplifying and improving transit service on the Quadra corridor
- Improvements to YYJ Airport and Peninsula service

# Esquimalt Transit Service

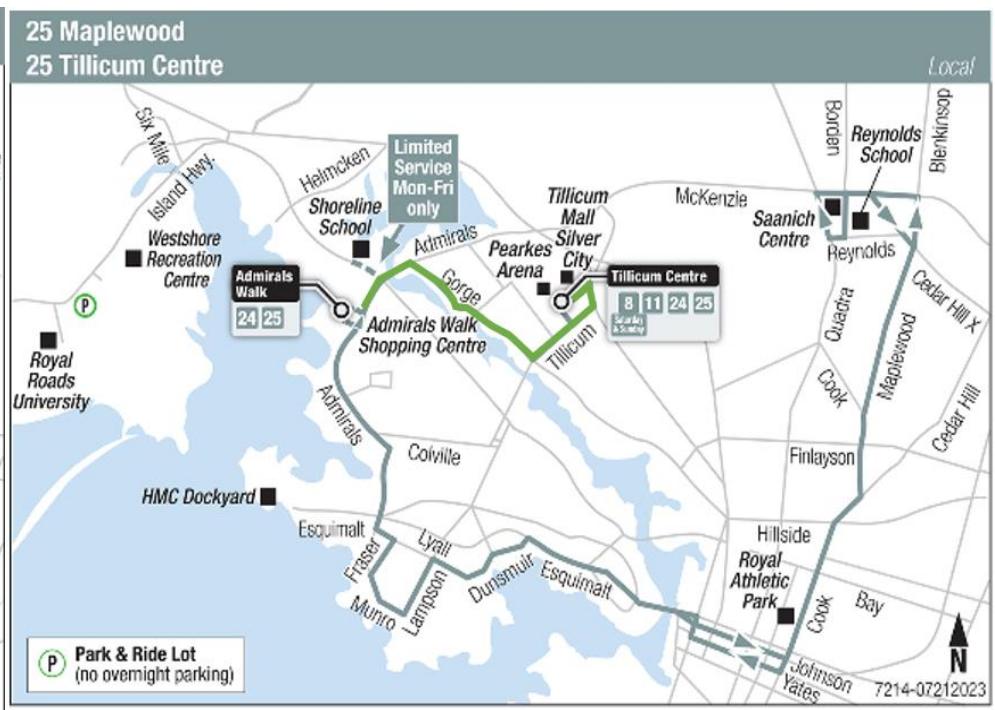
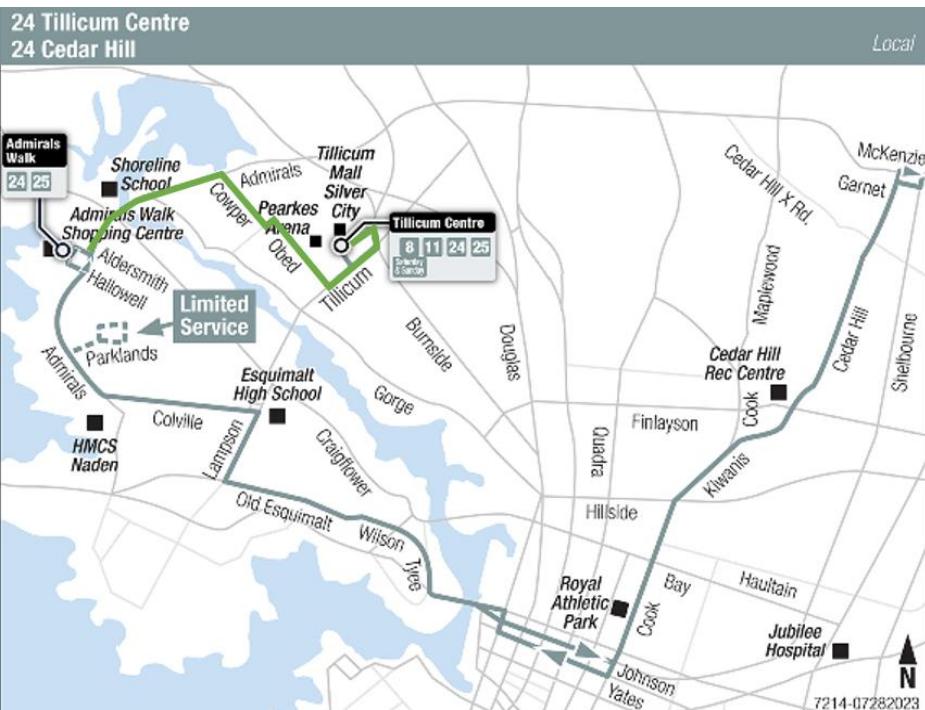


# Esquimalt Transit Service

Route Information		Ridership					Passenger Comfort 2022-2023	
		Boardings Per Revenue Hour			2022-2023			
Route Class	Route	2022-2023*	Graph	Target	Trend	Average Daily Boardings	% Trips Meeting Passenger Capacity Guideline**	
FTN	14	56.0		55		6,799	93%	
FTN	15	60.0		55		5,111	92%	
LTN-R	24	30.3		40		1,080	99%	
LTN-R	25	35.2		40		1,329	99%	
FTN	26	71.2		55		6,707	96%	
LTN-C	46	26.5		20		370	100%	

# Recent Service Changes

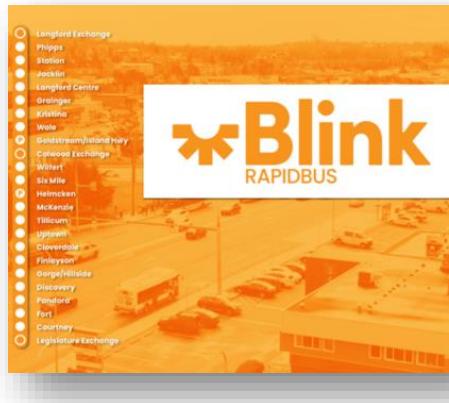
- Route 24 and 25 extension to Tillicum Mall (summer 2022)
  - Supported Route 11 detour for Saanich Gorge Road construction
  - Concept included in Esquimalt-View Royal Local Area Transit Plan



# RapidBus Implementation – West Shore Line Launch

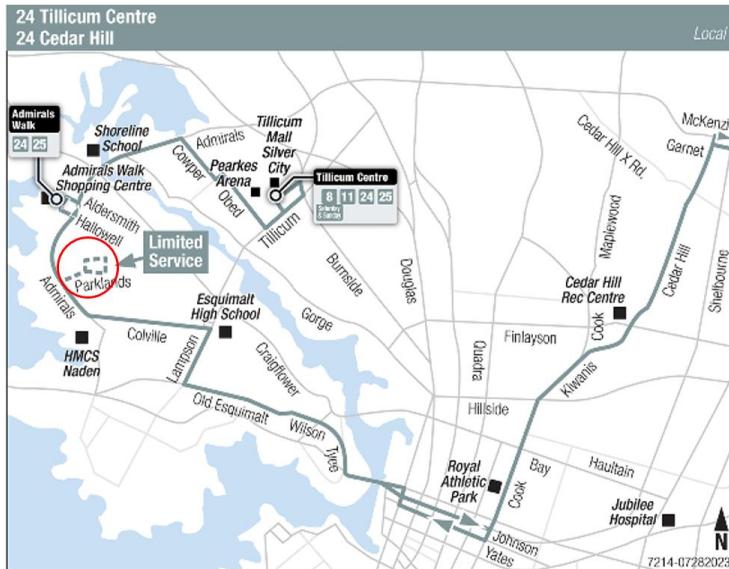
The flagship Blink West Shore RapidBus Line was launched in April 2023.

- Introduced the new Route 95 Langford/ Downtown
- Route 95 replaced Route 50, operating along the same route, but with added service and fewer bus stops
- 7-8 minute frequency at peak periods on weekdays
- Minimum of 15 minute service from 7am-10pm Monday to Saturday and 8am-10pm Sunday



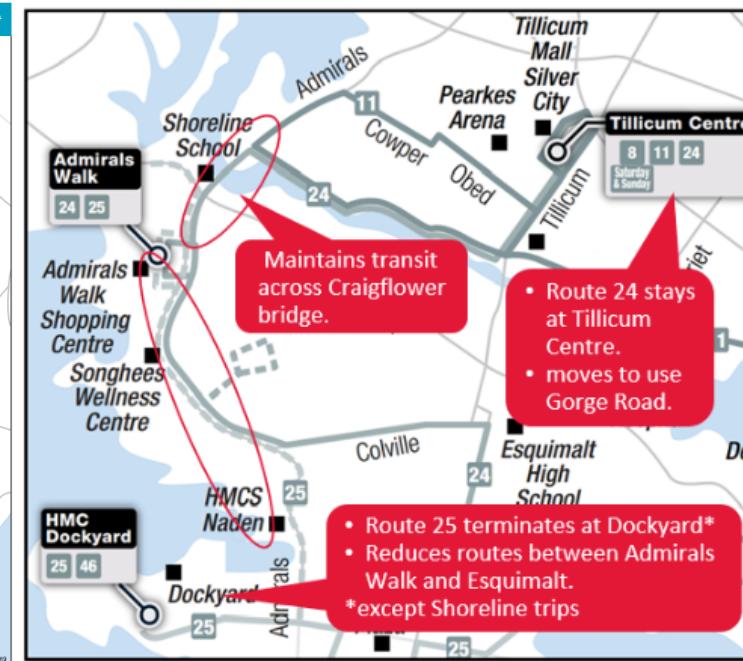
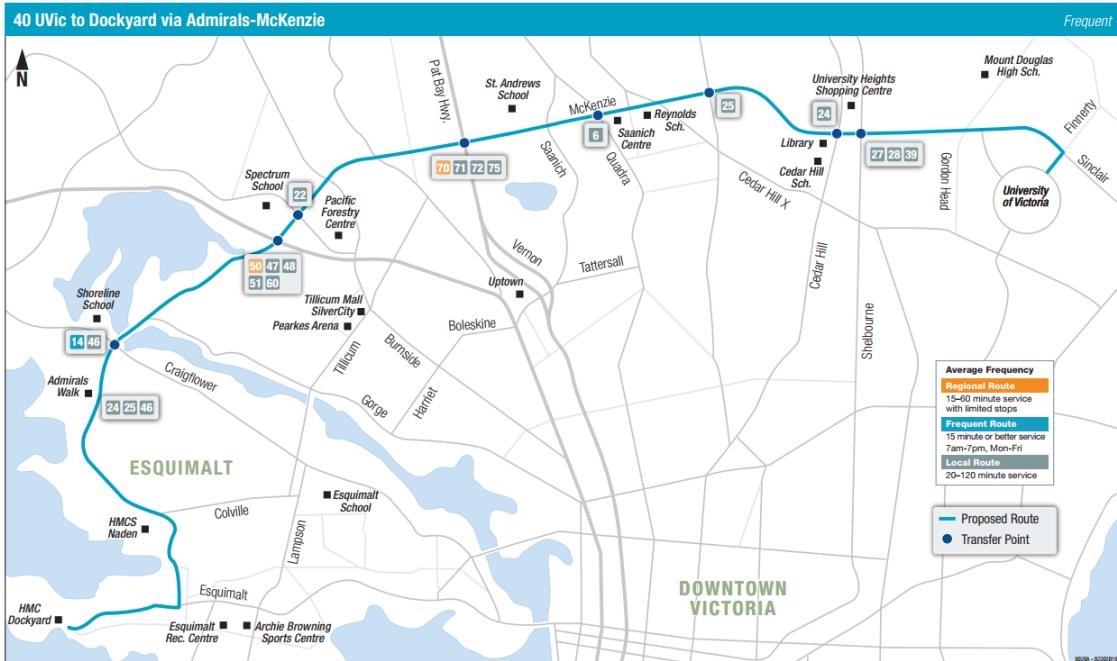
# Planned Service Changes

- Route 24 will no longer operate along Parklands Dr and Kingsmill Rd as of September 2, 2024
  - There have been recurring issues with residential parking impacting operational capacity to serve these roads
  - Ridership is low and 80% of neighbourhood is within 400m of existing service on Admirals Rd



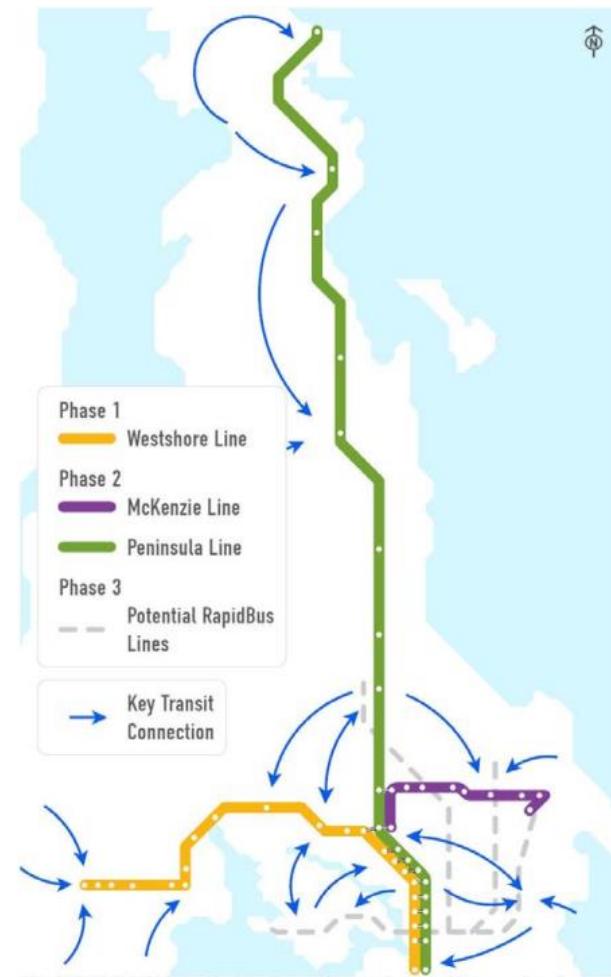
# Future Service Changes

- Introduce Route 40 Dockyard/UVIC via Admirals and Optimize Route 25
  - Route 25 will be truncated at Dockyard
  - Supported by public engagement in November 2023 (724 surveys)
  - Requires service expansion to improve Route 40 introductory service levels



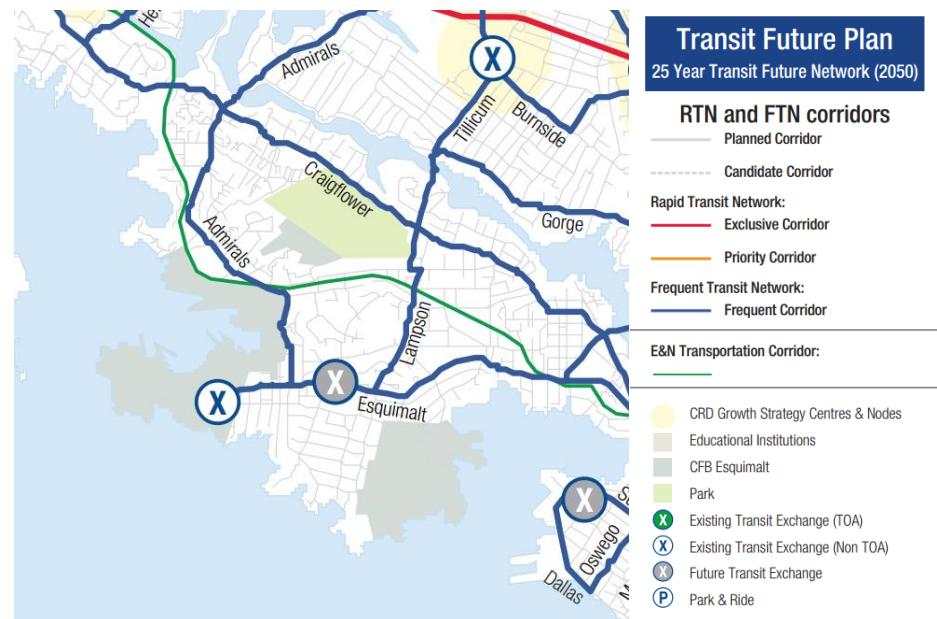
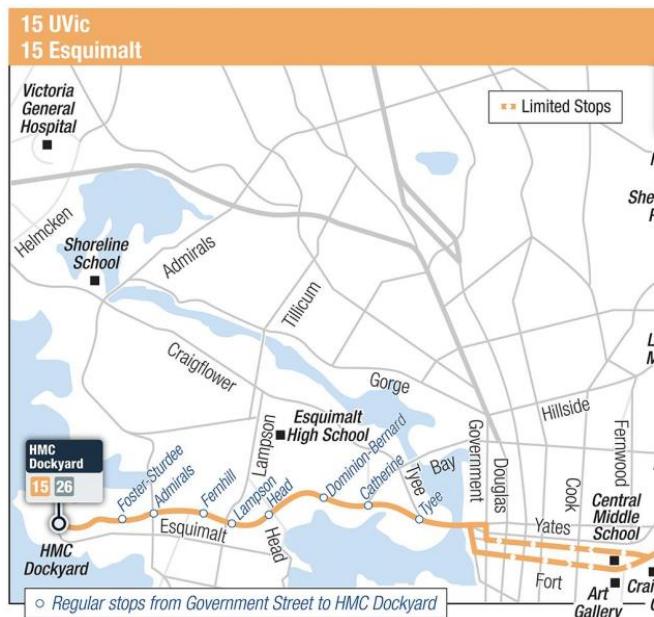
# Tillicum-McKenzie Corridor Transit Plan

- The goals of the corridor study include the following:
  - Confirm the future transit network along the Tillicum-McKenzie Corridor, including how transit service connects to and through the future Uptown Mobility Hub from a cross-town network perspective.
  - This process will confirm the associated network changes required to support the McKenzie RapidBus Line implementation.
  - Summarize key opportunities for future Transit Priority Measure improvements, bus stop spacing, and bus stop amenity improvements



# Future Infrastructure Improvements

- Transit Priority Measures – Esquimalt Road identified as RapidBus Candidate Corridor in Local Area Transit Plan
  - BC Transit will continue working with Esquimalt staff on transit-supportive improvements
  - Challenging to accommodate given limited right of way
- Esquimalt Transit Exchange



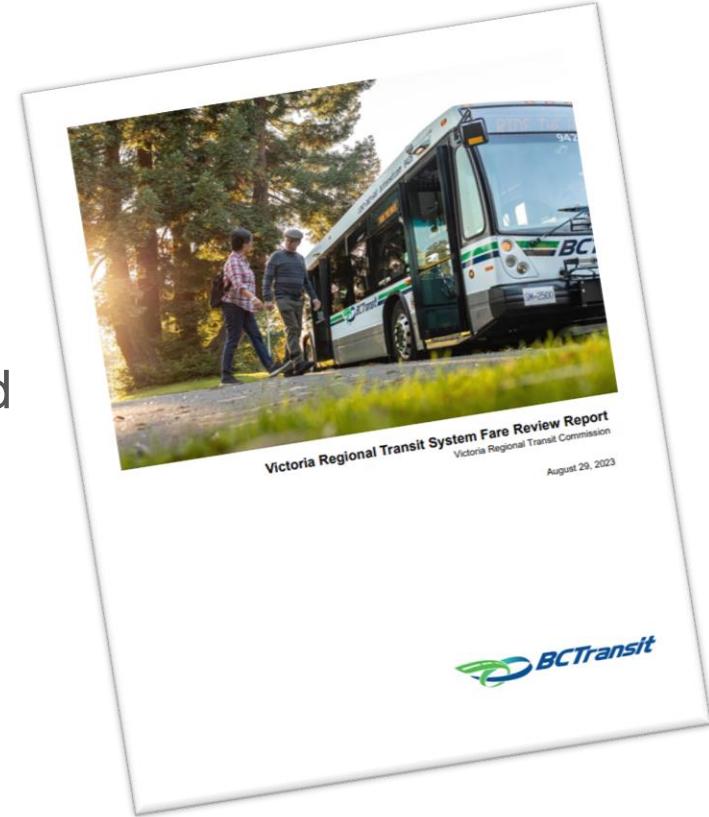
# Electronic Fare Collection System (Umo)

- Launched in the Victoria Regional Transit System in August 2023
  - Replace end-of-life and costly fare tech on conventional transit services
  - Increase access to taking transit more often for more riders
- Introduced two new convenient payment methods – mobile app and reloadable card.
- Introduced new and improved fare products – Cash balance, 30-Day Pass, digital DayPASS, digital U-PASS, digital ProPASS
- Since launch:
  - Adoption rates continue to increase each week
  - Mobile app rider's preferred payment method
  - Expanded to 12 other transit systems, improving interregional travel.
- Future plans:
  - Enable credit and debit card payments



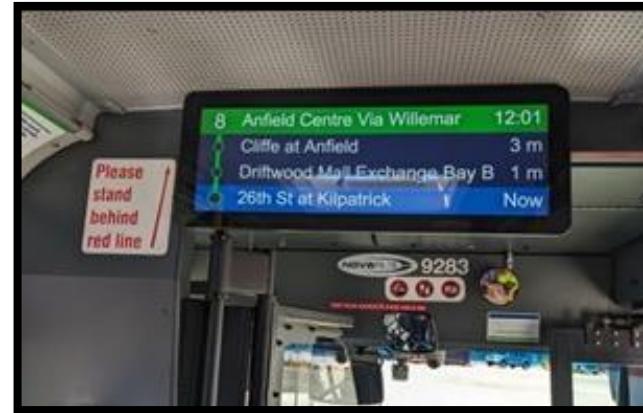
# VRTS Fare Review

- Fare review now complete in the VRTS
  - Provide options that improve cost recovery while also ensuring fares are affordable, in line with similarly sized transit systems, and aligned with BC Transit's recommended Fare Guidelines
  - Public engagement in November – December 2023
  - Possible fare change in early 2025
- Final report will go to VRTC later this year for approval
- Standardized Discount Structure recently approved



# NextRide

- Allows riders to see the real-time location of their bus and its predicted arrival time at an identified stop
- NextRide data assists with schedule reliability, managing on-road incidents more effectively and customer communications
- NextRide refresh started in January
  - help provide increased certainty, convenience and predictability for transit customers
  - new digital full-colour passenger information displays inside all heavy-duty buses & high-capacity buses



# BC Transit Bus Shelter Program

- BC Transit's Program which assists local governments in acquiring a suite of transit shelters
- The program provides local governments with access to capital funding with 80% joint funding between the Federal and Provincial funding
  - The VRTC pays the local 20%
- Local governments are responsible for prepping the site for installation and on-going site maintenance



# Low Carbon Fleet Program



Provincial carbon emission reductions targets:

- 16% by 2025
- 40% by 2030
- 60% by 2040
- 80% by 2050



# Victoria Regional Transit System Electric Bus Project

- Learning and engagement with the electric demonstration bus is now complete
- During the last 16 months, we accumulated 11,000 km of experience with the bus
- Charging equipment constructed at the Victoria Transit Centre is ready to support electric buses from other suppliers



# Thank You



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