

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



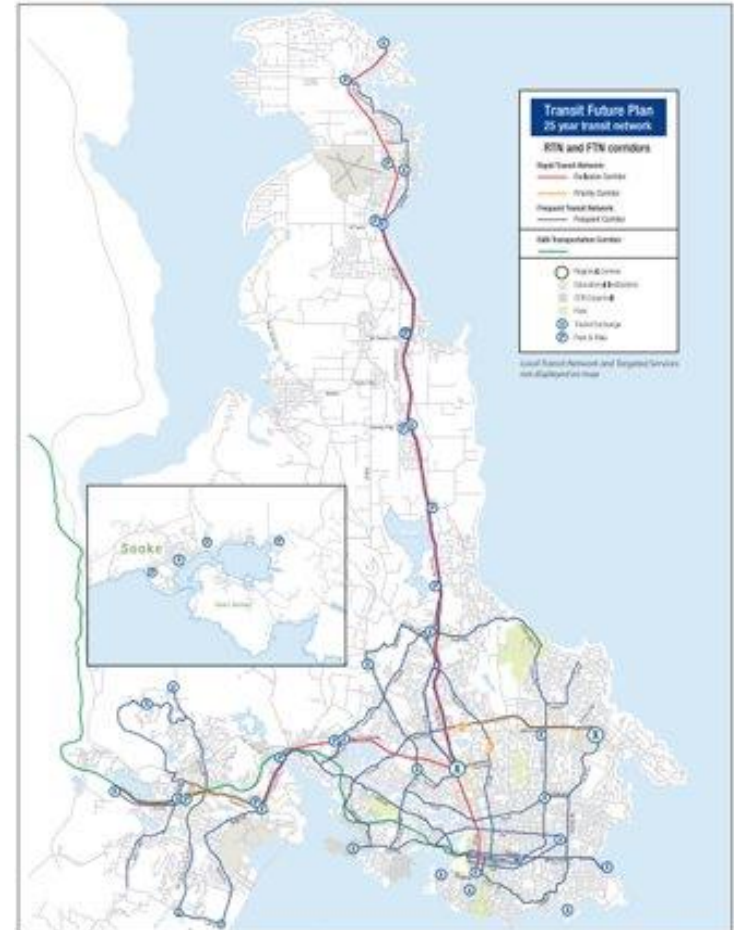
Victoria Regional Transit System Overview

Conventional Transit

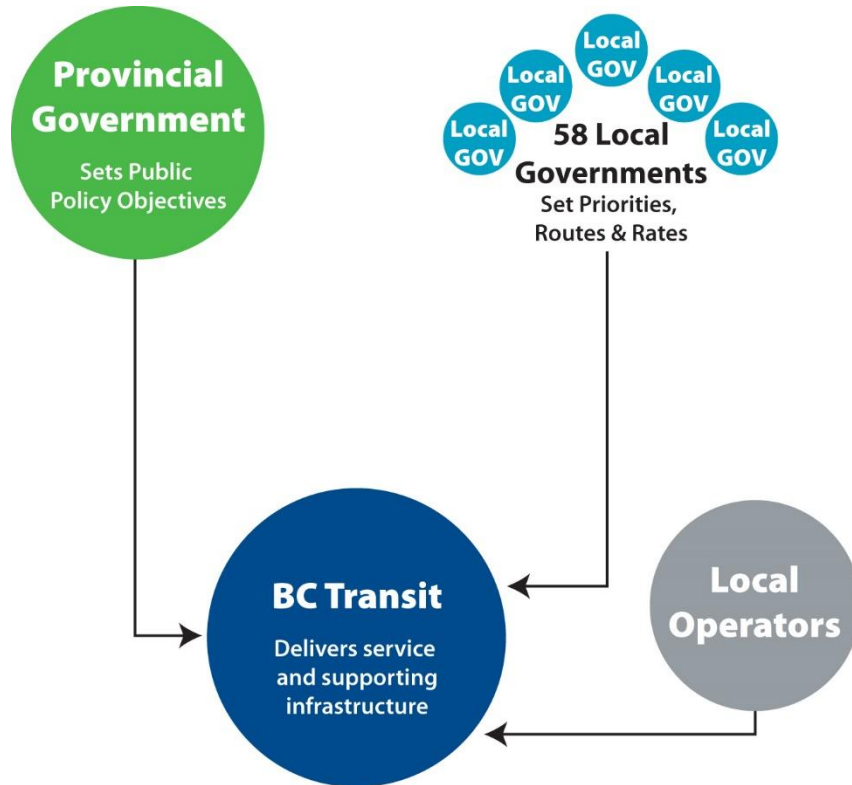
- Fixed routes and schedules
 - 57 transit routes
- 22.4 million boardings in 2022/23
- Range of vehicles, services:
 - Double Deckers
 - 30' 35' 40' vehicles
 - Community shuttles

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



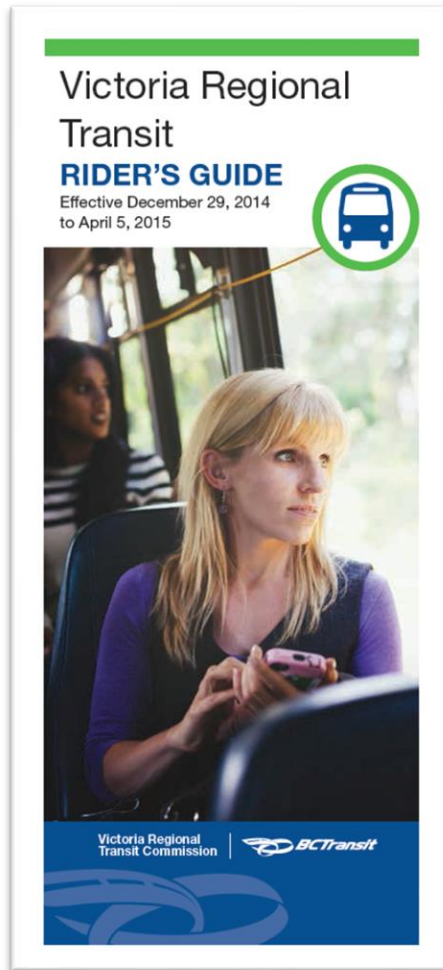
Victoria Regional Transit Commission

- 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

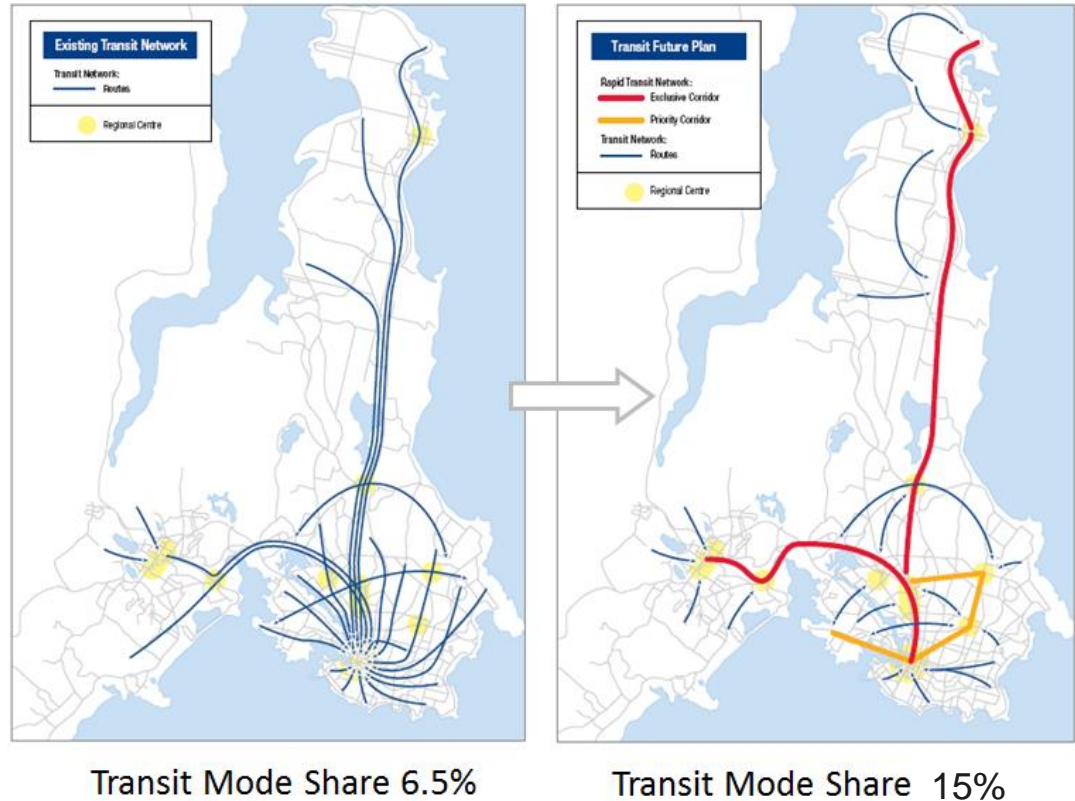


Transit Future Plan

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


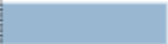




Key strategic service investments priorities:

- 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

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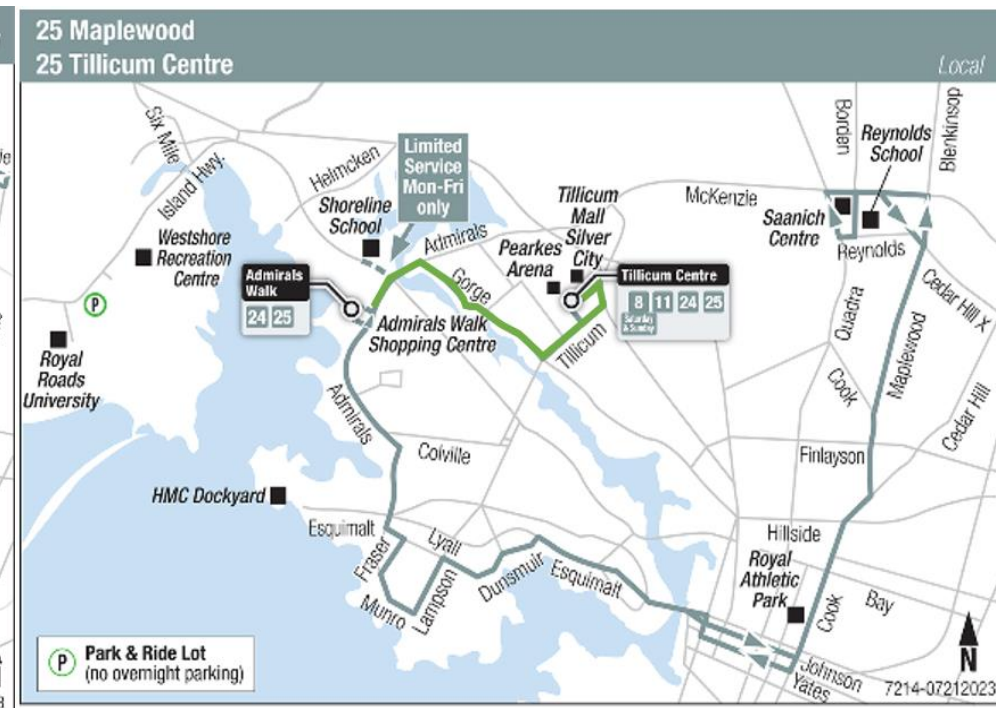
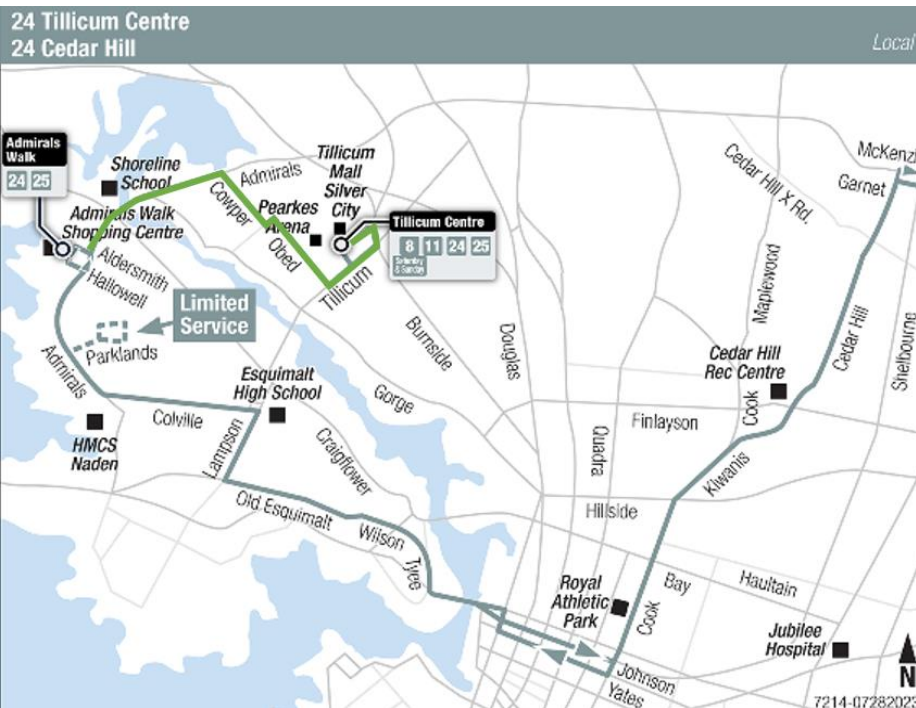


Esquimalt Transit Service

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

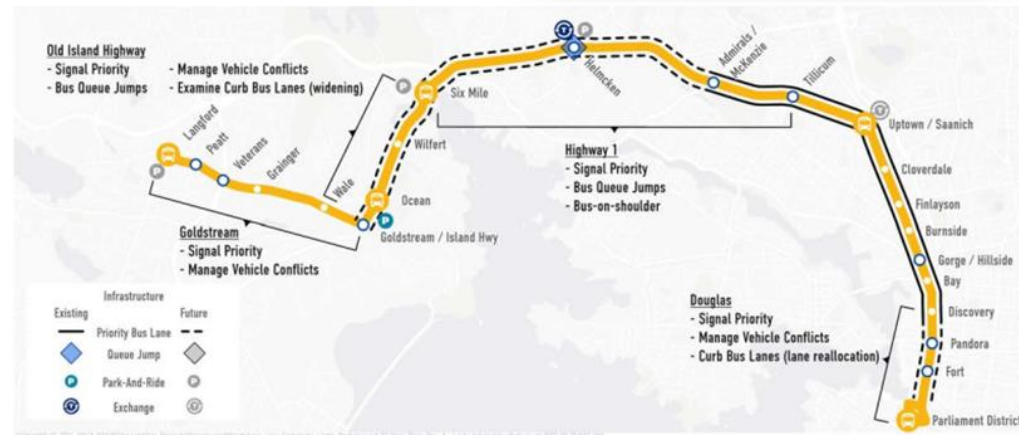
- Route 24 and 25 extension to Tillicum Mall (summer 2022)
 - Supported Route 11 detour for Saanich Gorge Road construction
 - Concept included in Esquimalt-View Royal Local Area Transit Plan



RapidBus Implementation – West Shore Line Launch

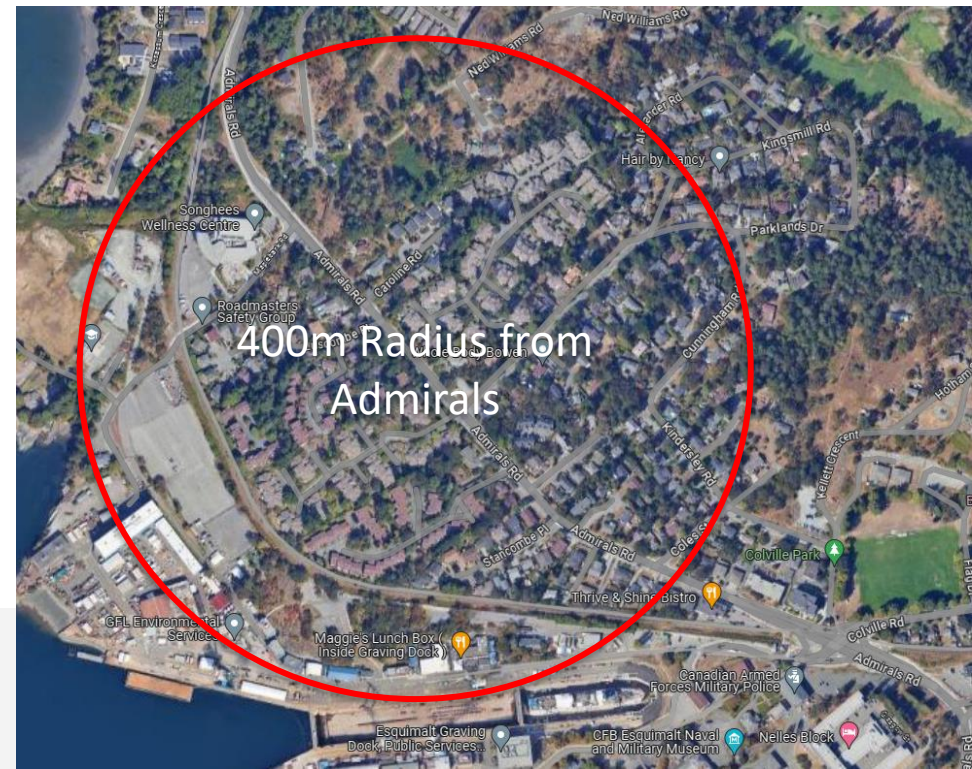
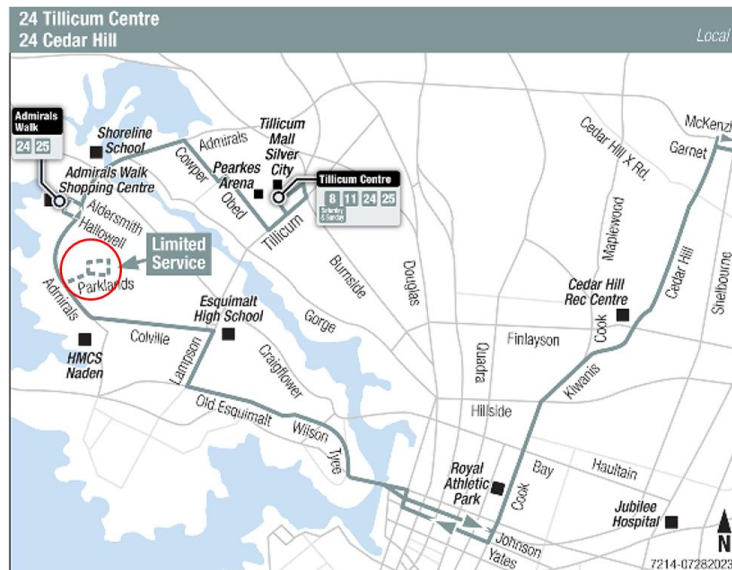
The flagship Blink West Shore RapidBus Line was launched in April 2023.

- 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



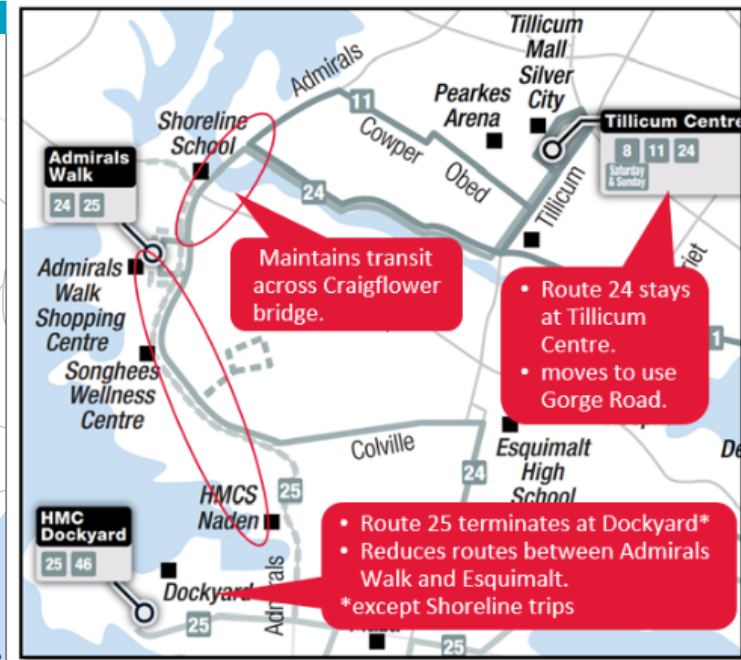
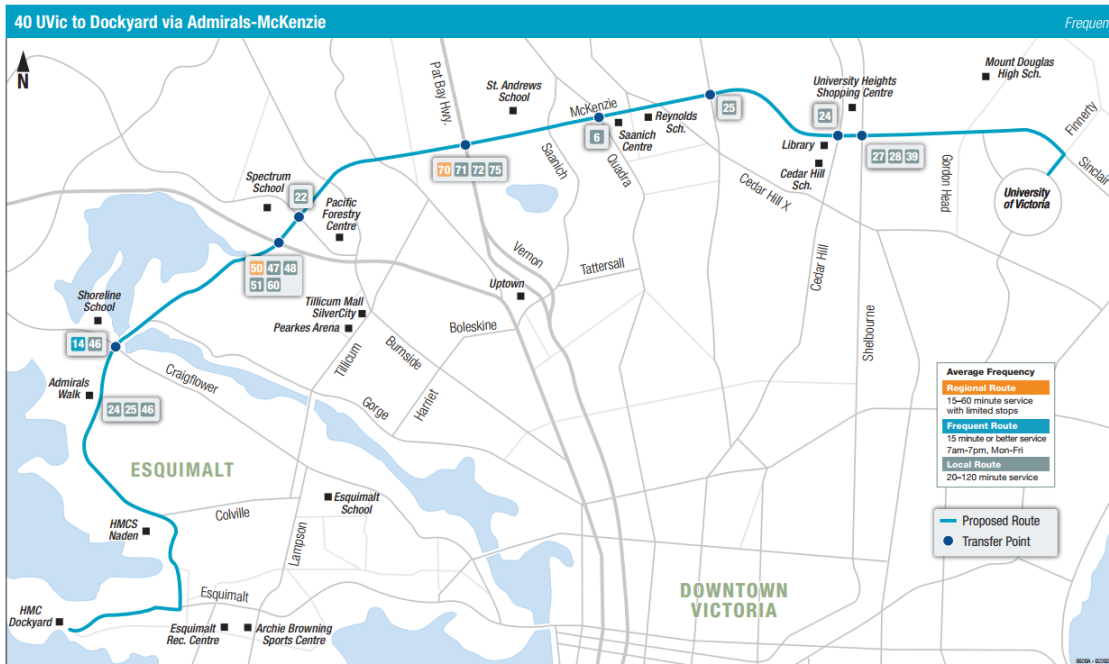
Planned Service Changes

- 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



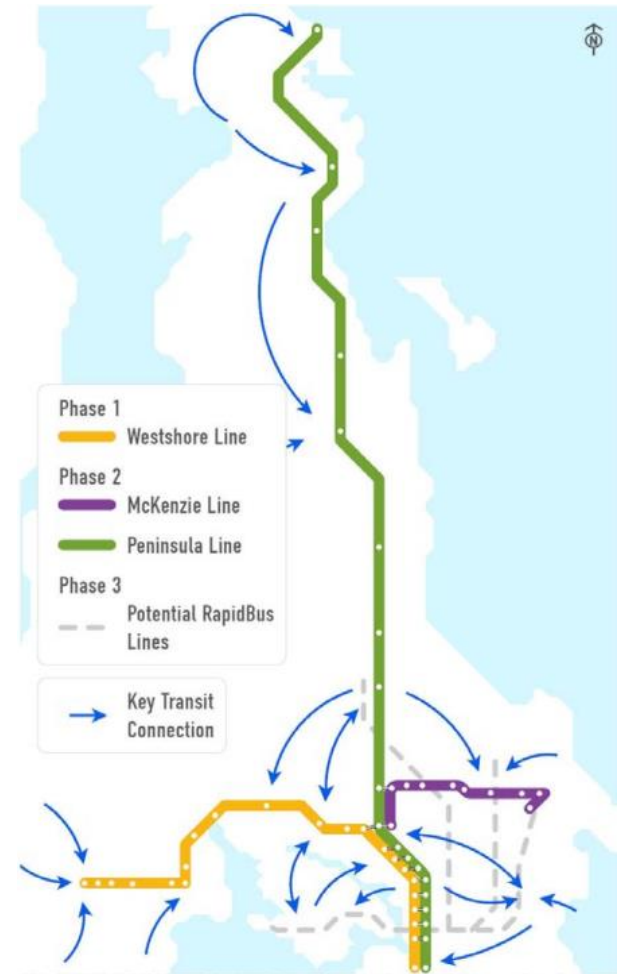
Future Service Changes

- 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



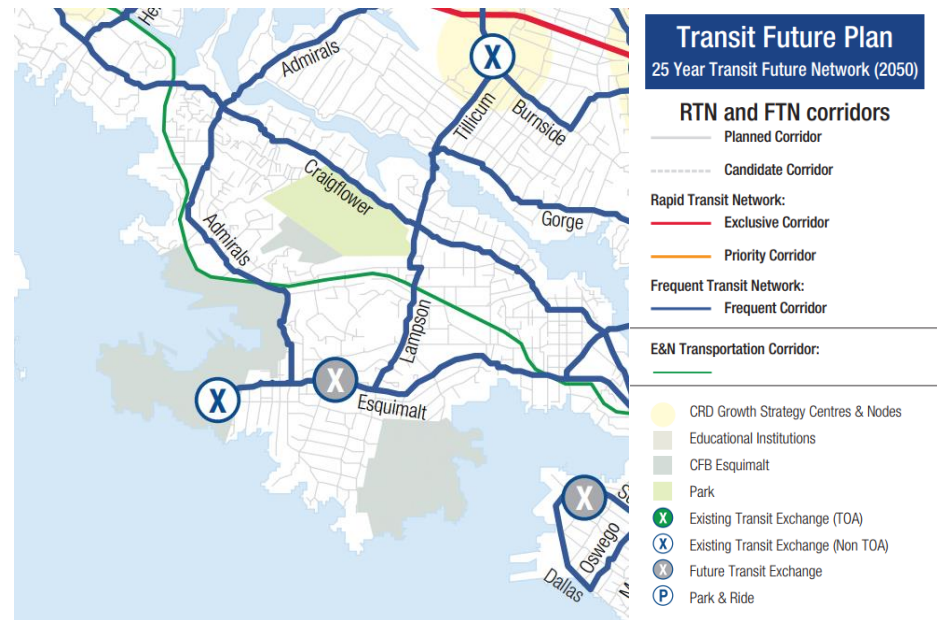
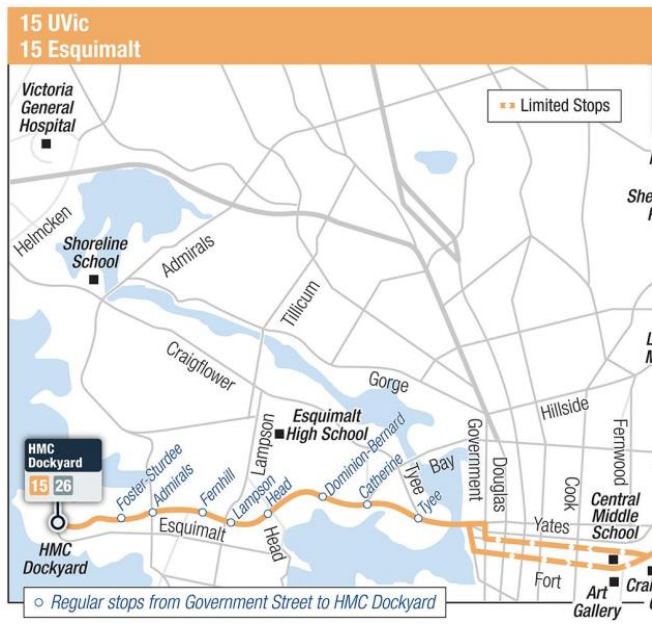
Tillicum-McKenzie Corridor Transit Plan

- 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



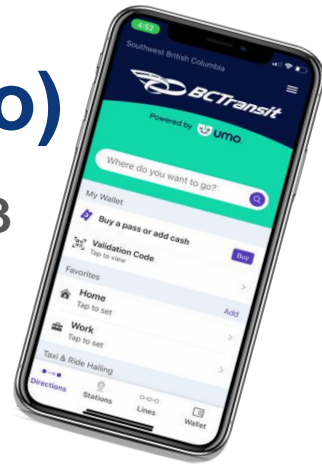
Future Infrastructure Improvements

- 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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