



**REPORT TO PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013**

SUBJECT **VICTORIA TRANSIT CORRIDOR PRIORITY PLAN**

PURPOSE

To provide an update and status on the Victoria Transit Priority Corridor Plan.

BACKGROUND

Recent correspondence from BC Transit (Attachment 1) requests an opportunity to present transit priority measures for key corridors to Committee and Board for information. The Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC) has directed BC Transit staff to develop a transit priority plan for major corridors. Three corridors with high transit demand and significant travel delays are recommended for potential transit priority measures:

1. Douglas Street
2. McKenzie Avenue
3. Island Highway

The study process has involved staff from Victoria, Saanich, Colwood and View Royal as well as the Capital Regional District (CRD) and BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to identify opportunities to enhance transit service. For Committee's information, MoTI is undertaking its own reviews of transit priority for the Trans-Canada Highway and Pat Bay Highway.

Before proceeding with final corridor improvement recommendations, BC Transit has been directed by the VRTC to present these options to the relevant municipal councils and the Board. Accordingly, BC Transit staff will present the corridor options to Committee at this meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee receives PPS/RSP 2013-07 titled Victoria Transit Corridor Priority Plan and accompanying presentation as information.
2. That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee receive report PPS/RSP 2013-07 titled Victoria Transit Corridor Priority Plan and accompanying presentation as information and refer to the Board.

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

Transit priority refers to relatively low-cost measures to increase the speed and reliability of transit operating on the same road space as other vehicles. These measures include dedicated bus lanes, transit queue jumps and transit signal priority. Transit priority measures are intended to increase ridership without the high costs of a separated transit-only facility. This aligns with TravelChoices goals to enhance alternatives to driving alone, manage transportation systems in an effective manner, and manage transportation investments in a fiscally responsible and strategic manner.

Transit priority plans and actions on the region's principle transportation corridors also align with current BC Transit and CRD planning initiatives. Douglas Street, Island Highway and McKenzie Avenue are parts of the rapid transit network identified in BC Transit's Transit Future Plan and are priorities for high speed high frequency transit service. These arterial roads have also been identified as Primary corridors and transportation planning and investment priorities in the CRD's draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Implicit in both Transit Future and the RTP is an approach to improve bus speeds and reliability on existing infrastructure and build ridership to levels that may eventually support the implementation of fully grade separated rapid transit services.

CONCLUSION

Over the last year BC Transit has been assessing the potential for transit priority measures on key transportation corridors in the region. The technical phase of the plan is almost complete with identified options for Douglas Street, Island Highway and McKenzie Avenue. Municipal, provincial and CRD staff have been consulted and have provided input into the technical process. The transit priority options are now being presented to the CRD Board and municipal councils for information prior to a VRTC decision to proceed with implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee receive report PPS/RSP 2013-07 titled Victoria Transit Corridor Priority Plan and accompanying presentation as information and refer to the Board.

****ORIGINAL SIGNED****

Malcolm MacPhail, MCIP, RPP
Planner
Regional and Strategic Planning

Marg Misk-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Acting General Manager
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Concurrence

Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP
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Attachment 1: Correspondence from BC Transit regarding presentation of Victoria Transit Corridor Priority Plan



April 8, 2013

Bob Lapham, CAO
Capital Regional District
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

via: email

Re: Presentation to CRD Board Regarding Transit Corridor Priority Study

Dear Mr. Lapham

As you are aware, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission has asked BC Transit to lead a process to implement transit priority on key corridors in our region. The implementation of transit priority is key to achieving the goals of the Provincial Transit Plan, the Region's Travel Choices and BC Transit's Transit Future Plan. Included in the study are Douglas Street, McKenzie Ave and Island Hwy; which are the most critical corridors in the region. These are the most important locations to provide transit priority and to increase the attractiveness of transit relative to the automobile.

As part of the ongoing development of this study, BC Transit has been working with the CRD, MoTI, the City of Victoria, District of Saanich and the municipalities of Colwood and View Royal to develop and refine suitable opportunities to enhance transit service within their jurisdictional corridors. With that said, in consultation with our regional partners, we have developed a plan that identifies the various initiatives that could be implemented in a timely and effective manner. It is our goal to present these to the various stakeholders over the coming weeks.

As such, BC Transit would like to present this information to the CRD Board as a matter of information and to showcase the work done to date. Therefore, we are requesting to be added to April 24th, 2013 agenda of the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee and also your May 8th, 2013 Board meeting. Our delegation will consist of myself, our senior planner, James Wadsworth and the study consultant from Urban Systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rory Kulmala".

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cc: James Wadsworth, Senior Planner, BC Transit
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John Steiner, Urban Systems
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