

# *Presentation to CRD Transportation Committee February 25, 2015*

## **Vancouver Island Rail**

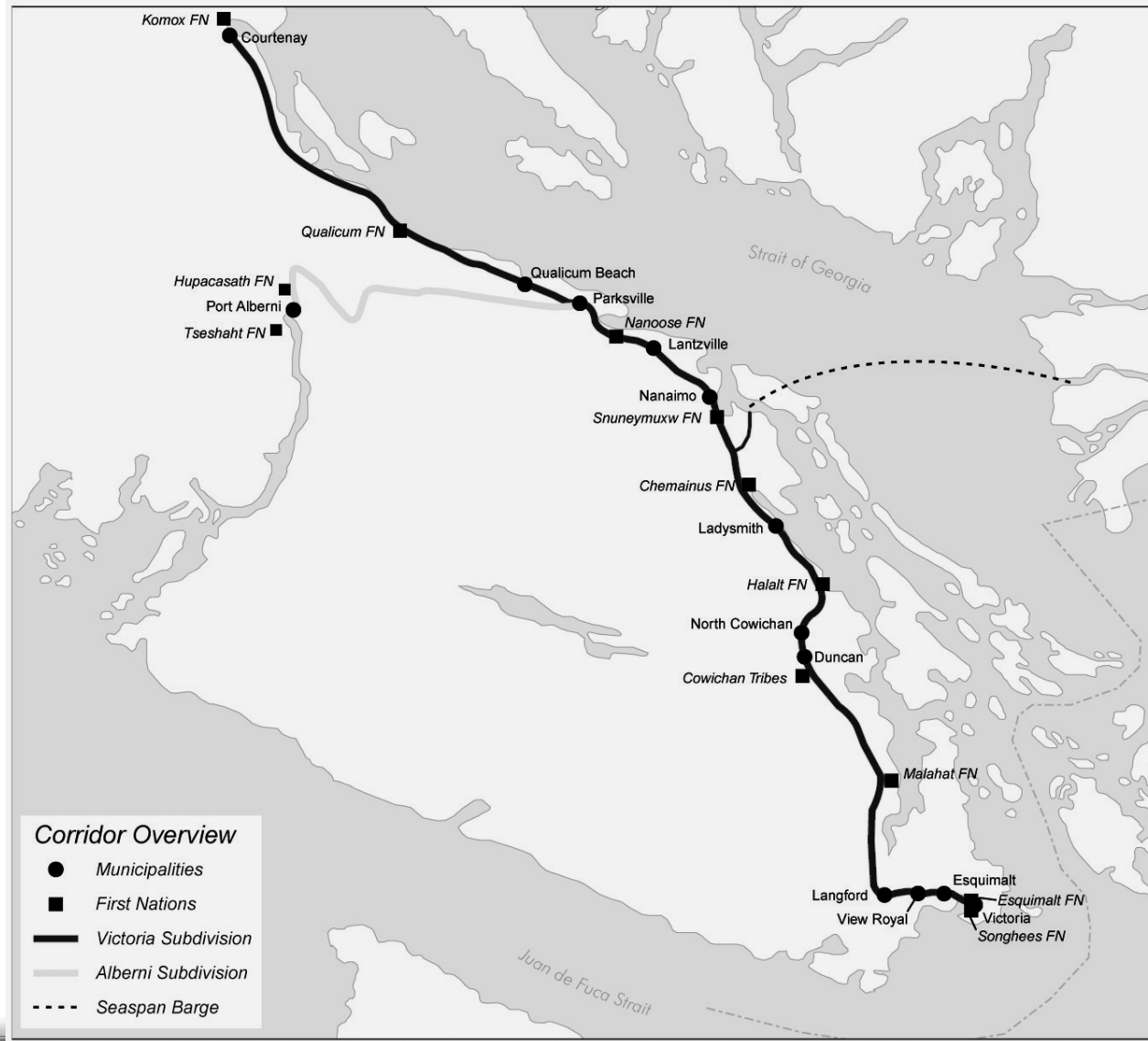


ISLAND  
CORRIDOR  
FOUNDATION



**SVI Rail Link**

# VANCOUVER ISLAND RAIL CORRIDOR



# Railway Infrastructure Improvement Plan Victoria to Courtenay

Track Upgrades – Provincial / Federal  
Total - \$20.9M Project

1. MoTI Bridge Assessment \$500,000 (Complete 2012)
2. Track Tie Renewal – 110,300 ties (25%) - \$11.216M
3. Rail Joint Renewal – 9000 Pair c/w Fastenings - \$0.92M
4. Track Re-Ballast & Surface – Complete Line - \$2.364M

Total Track Improvements = \$15M

# Railway Infrastructure Improvement Plan

## Railway Bridge Improvements – 10 Year Passenger Rail

1. Immediate & 10 Year Structural and Immediate Bridge Tie Renewal Requirements – Regional Districts - \$3.115M
  2. 10 Year Bridge Tie Renewal Requirements – ICF - \$2.285M
  3. 10 Year Bridge Maintenance – SVI - \$0.5M
- Total Bridge Repairs & Improvements = \$5.9M

## Funding Commitments / Agreements

1. BC Provincial Government - Track Improvements - \$7.5M – Premier Clark Public Announcement - June 28, 2011
2. Canadian Federal Government – Track Improvements - \$7.5M – Minister John Duncan Public Announcement - April 10, 2012
3. Regional Districts – Bridge Repairs & Improvements - \$3.115M - Funding Agreements - 2013
4. VIA Rail Canada Inc. – Train Service Agreement – 2014
5. Infrastructure Plan & Business Case with Governments since Oct/14 – Awaiting signoff

# Reports & Studies 2006 to date

- MNP Report on E&N Railway - 2005
- BC MoTI / IBI Group - Evaluation of the E & N Railway Corridor – Foundation Paper – 2009
- ICF / SVI - Potential for Tourism Service on Vancouver Island - 2009
- ICF / SVI – Potential for Freight Expansion – 2009
- SVI – The Advantages of Rail vs. Truck Transportation of Coal on Vancouver Island – 2010
- BC MoTI / Associated Engineering / Benesch – Bridge Inspection and Assessment – E&N Railway, Vancouver Island, BC, Canada – 2012
- Island Explorer Excursion Train Feasibility Study – SVI - Sept/2014

## VIA Rail Passenger Service



RailPictures.Net - Image Copyright © Tim Stevens

## VIA Rail – Train Service Agreement – Key Elements

- Provided by VIA Rail Canada Inc.:
  - ✓ Deficit Funding – \$1.45M (Year 1)
  - ✓ Liability Insurance
  - ✓ Refurbished Bike-Friendly Rail Cars
- Improved Serviced – Based in Nanaimo
- Local control of schedule and service - (SVI/ICF)
- Revenue / Ridership Risk with Operator (SVI):
  - ✓ Need to Respond to Market Demand and Optimum Business Model
  - ✓ Inter-operability with other transportation modes –eg. bus / ferry
  - ✓ **Key Connections**
    - ✓ Courtenay > Powell River > Campbell River
    - ✓ Qualicum Beach > Port Alberni > Tofino / Ucluelet



## VIA Rail – Inter-City Service

### Initial Schedule / Phased Opening:

1. Nanaimo – Victoria Return Twice Daily  
Nanaimo Departures 6:30 & 12:00 / Victoria Departures 9:15 & 2:45
2. Service to Qualicum Beach – Wednesdays & Weekends
3. Service to Courtenay – Weekends & Stat. Holidays
4. Victoria Terminus Station(s) – to be finalized

## Freight Opportunities

### Freight Business (to 2014)

- Freight Corridor - Duncan to Parksville
- Approximately 800 railcar loads per year
- Top Customers (by volume) – Superior Propane (Nanaimo), Top Shelf Feeds (Duncan), Catalyst Paper (Latex Transload to Port Alberni)
- Other Customers –Parksville -National Silicates / Courtenay -Northern Pressure Treated Wood Products, Stella-Jones
- Transload established in Wellcox Yard to access non-rail served customers on Vancouver Island

# Freight Rail – North American Market Connections



# Freight Rail - North American Connections



## Cruise Ship / Excursion Rail



## Tourism / Excursion Rail

### Island Explorer – Feasibility Study – Conclusions

- Feasible / Positive Bottom Line
- Dual Purpose
  - Positive synergy with Nanaimo Cruise Ship Calls
  - Island Local “Rolling Special Events”
- Break-even – 15 Excursion / Events per season
- High quality hospitality service
- Local “Themed” events
- Excess capacity – ie. add more equipment (coaches)
- Synergy with Island businesses / communities / tourism

## Tourism / Excursion Rail



## Tourism / Excursion Rail (cont'd)





## APR Port Alberni Steam Excursion – Successful Model



- 7 miles of track within City of Port Alberni to McLean Mill National Historic Site
- 1929 "Baldwin" steam train
- In 2014, over 7,000 people rode the train
- Hosting Special Events; Wine Tours, Beaufort Gang Train Robbery, Teddy Bear Picnics, Thunder in the Valley, Weddings, and Fall Leaves Tour

## Potential Commuter Services

- As developed by CRD / Western Communities
- Westhills > Langford > Victoria
- Travel time – 20 min.
- Dedicated purpose train / passenger cars
- “Push / Pull” operation possible – Quick turn around

# Potential Commuter Services



## Limited Commuter Service

- Potential 3 Runs AM & PM
- Proponents to provide additional infrastructure requirements and operational costs
- Detailed assessment needs to be undertaken by proponents

# Historic Stations – Heritage Canada Restoration & Development



Nanaimo Train Station

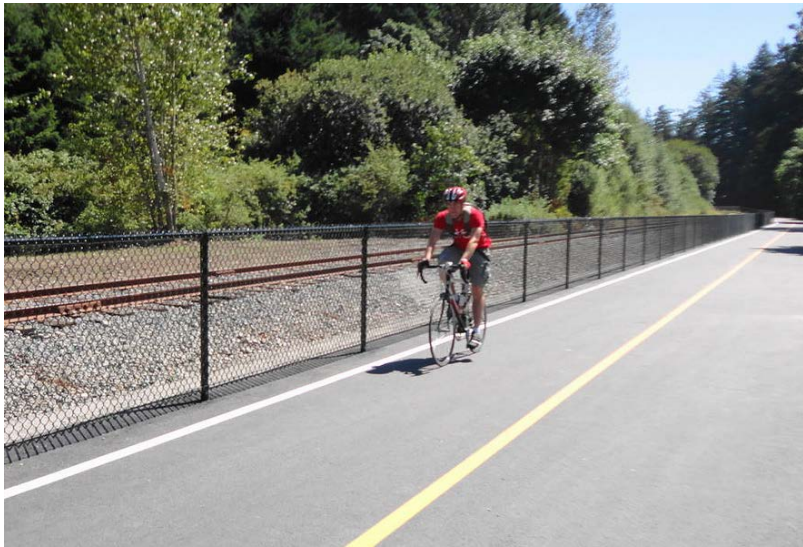
- ✓ Courtenay
- ✓ Alberni
- ✓ Qualicum
- ✓ Nanaimo
- ✓ Duncan



## Historic Stations – Restoration & Development

- Nanaimo Station
  - Built in 1920, destroyed by fire in 2007
  - Renovated in 2012 at a cost of \$2.4M
  - Heritage décor throughout building
  - Heritage BC *Award of Honor* & VIREB *Award of Excellence*
  - Anchor tenant Fibber McGee's Restaurant
  - Area for ticket and luggage
  
- Courtenay Station
  - Built in 1914
  - Partially renovated in 2013 with support of Rotary Group
  - New roof, siding, windows, gutters, paint and more  
(Further renovations to come in 2015)

## Rail Trail Development



- Synergy with rail – bike friendly cars
- Trail linkage with Trans Canada Trail, Spine and E & N Rail trail to link up all areas
- To date, the Capital Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo, and City of Courtenay have all completed some rail with trail.
- The guidelines address all aspects of trail development and establish rural, suburban and urban design guidelines.

# Rail Trail Development

