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## REPORT TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

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**SUBJECT**     **Capital Regional District Regional Transportation Plan Update**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present an update of the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including foundational work completed to date and upcoming engagement.

### **BACKGROUND**

In June 2025, the Transportation Committee endorsed the proposed timeline and scope for the development of a new RTP. Following that, a consulting team was engaged to support the work.

Work to date has focused on establishing a foundation for the plan. This has included confirming scope, completing background research and high-level data analysis, and reviewing previous municipal planning and engagement from across the region. Staff and consultants have also examined best practices from other regions to identify lessons and approaches relevant to the capital region.

This work highlights the most urgent transportation needs facing the region and clarifies the outcomes the updated RTP can realistically influence. It also identifies areas where regional coordination can make the most difference – such as rapid transit corridors, the Regional Multi-modal Network, transportation demand management, safety, land use integration, governance, and major project prioritization.

### **Reconciliation Corridor Initiative**

The Reconciliation Corridor Initiative, which will explore passenger rail service between Langford and Victoria on the Island Rail Corridor, emerged after the initial RTP scoping was set.

Additional analysis will clarify the Corridor's potential strategic role, its alignment with growth, mobility, and equity goals, and the considerations of identifying it as a priority transit corridor. This expanded work will shift final RTP completion to Q4 2027.

### **Regional Context and Emerging Challenges**

Over the past decade, the region has made measurable progress toward a more multi-modal transportation system. Active transportation networks have expanded and walking and cycling rates have grown significantly. The Regional Transportation Service (RTS) has also created a stronger framework for regional coordination.

Despite progress, the region faces several structural challenges that require a renewed regional strategy:

- **Growth and land use pressures:** Rapid population and housing growth have outpaced transportation investment, underscoring the need for stronger land use and transportation integration.

- **Mobility gaps:** Many communities still lack reliable transit or safe active transportation options. This contributes to congestion, higher household costs, and inequitable access to jobs and services.
- **Inconsistent regional experience:** Approaches to safety, transportation demand management (TDM), active transportation design, and transit priority vary across municipalities. This creates an uneven travel experience for people moving through the region.
- **Mode share trends:** While walking and cycling have increased (14.3% in 2001 to 22.5% in 2022), regional transit use has remained at approximately 6.5% over the same period.

Together, these conditions highlight the risks of fragmented decision-making and reinforce the need for clearer regional priorities and coordination action.

### Plan Framework

Analysis to date identifies several opportunities for impactful regional leadership:

- **Connecting growth to the core:** Align transit supportive investment with emerging growth areas to strengthen connections to jobs, services, and the regional core.
- **Advancing equitable mobility:** Better integrate transit planning and investment with the Regional Multi-modal Network to expand reliable travel options, particularly in communities with fewer transportation choices.
- **Improving regional consistency:** Increase alignment across municipalities through shared design standards, coordinated safety and TDM approaches, and region-wide approaches to transit priority.
- **Strengthen transit and active transportation coordination:** Build on rising walking and cycling rates while aligning transit investment with land use patterns and evolving travel patterns, including recent RapidBus performance results.

### Regional Transportation Goals

Draft goals for the RTP reflect long-standing regional values—sustainability, safety, affordability, and climate leadership—and input from previous governance studies. The proposed goals are to:

- Increase access to transportation opportunities
- Increase sustainable mode share
- Achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries
- Improve household transportation affordability
- Improve reliability and manage congestion
- Reduce transportation-related emissions

These goals are intended to form the backbone of the RTP. They will continue to be tested and refined through engagement to confirm alignment with regional priorities and the CRD's mandate.

### Direction, Guidance and Policy Potential

The updated RTP will provide strategic regional direction within the CRD's mandate and tools. Key areas include:

- **Regional priorities and investment intent:** Establish clear strategic priorities and define the role of major corridors, networks, and modes in achieving regional goals.

- **Investment alignment and sequencing:** Provide guidance on how transportation investments should be coordinated and phased across jurisdictions, modes, and funding programs.
- **Transportation and land use integration:** Set regional expectations to better align transportation planning and land use and growth strategies.
- **Regional policies, guidelines, and standards:** Establish consistent, collaborative, regional approaches on key issues such as TDM, safety, access to resources, curb management, island connectivity, and design.
- **Governance and decision-making:** Clarify regional roles and decision-making processes, including options for stepwise governance refinement.

These directions will be refined through further technical work and engagement.

## Engagement

Engagement is structured to inform decision-making at key stages of plan development rather than all at once. The approach emphasizes transparency and alignment with regional and provincial direction.

### Engagement Objectives

- Build a shared regional vision and priorities
- Clarify how input informs decisions
- Identify regional trade-offs and system-level considerations
- Build understanding of emerging strategic direction
- Demonstrate alignment with regional and provincial direction

### Engagement to Date (Q1 2026)

Engagement undertaken between February and March 2026 focused on validating key challenges and opportunities and confirming early decision-making criteria. Activities included meetings and workshops with the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) and the Development Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC), as well as a cross-section of regional interest holders, including public agencies, community and equity-serving organizations, transportation advocates, business associations, and resident groups.

Membership on the RTAC includes senior staff from key transportation stakeholders including the CRD, the 13 municipalities and three electoral areas as well as the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, BC Transit, BC Ferries, Victoria Airport Authority, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, Island Corridor Foundation, and Vancouver Island Health Authority or Provincial Health Services Authority.

Membership on the DPAC includes senior planning staff from the CRD, the 13 municipalities and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

## Upcoming Engagement

Engagement will continue through the following phases:

Timing	Purpose	Participants
Q2 2026	<b>Drafting the Plan</b> Develop and refine draft strategies; explore regional opportunities and emerging directions; assess alignment and strengthen confidence in the draft plan.	CRD Board & Committees, elected officials, RTAC & DPAC, interest holders, public
Q4 2026 -Q1 2027	<b>Refining the Plan</b> Incorporate feedback; clarify areas of change; resolve outstanding issues; and confirm direction; prepare for governance consideration.	CRD Board & Committees, RTAC & DPAC, interest holders
Q3 - Q4 2027	<b>Finalizing the Plan</b> Confirm final plan; demonstrate how engagement informed decisions; reinforce alignment with regional and provincial priorities.	CRD Board & Committees; RTAC & DPAC

## Election Considerations

Engagement has been designed to align with the upcoming 2026 municipal election cycle:

- Engagement with elected officials continues through late spring 2026 and pause through the election period.
- During governance transition, engagement will focus on advisory committees and partners to maintain technical momentum.
- Re-engagement with the new Board in early 2027 will include summarizing progress and upcoming decisions.

This approach maintains continuity while respecting election protocols.

## Engagement with First Nations

Engagement with First Nations is being coordinated through the CRD’s First Nations Relations team. Initial discussions, carried out jointly with BC Transit, involved seven First Nations within the BC Transit service area. Engagement will continue throughout the RTP process, tailored to the interests and preferences of each Nation.

## CONCLUSION

Since 2025, work on the new Regional Transportation Plan has focused on clarifying regional challenges, identifying strategic opportunities, and determining where coordinated regional action can make the greatest impact. This report provides an update on progress, including draft goals, regional pressures, emerging directions, and the engagement program supporting plan development.

Next steps include continued analysis, engagement, and development of draft strategies for Board consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Regional Transportation Plan Engagement Highlights  
Presentation: Regional Transportation Plan Update