

CRD Transportation Committee

BC Transit Update
September 13, 2023

Outline

- Victoria Regional Transit System Overview
- Umo
- Low Carbon Fleet Program
- Facility Master Plan
- Transit Future Plan
 - 10-Year Vision
 - Regional Corridor Study
 - RapidBus
- Island Coastal Inter-Community Transportation Study
- Transit-Oriented Development
- 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

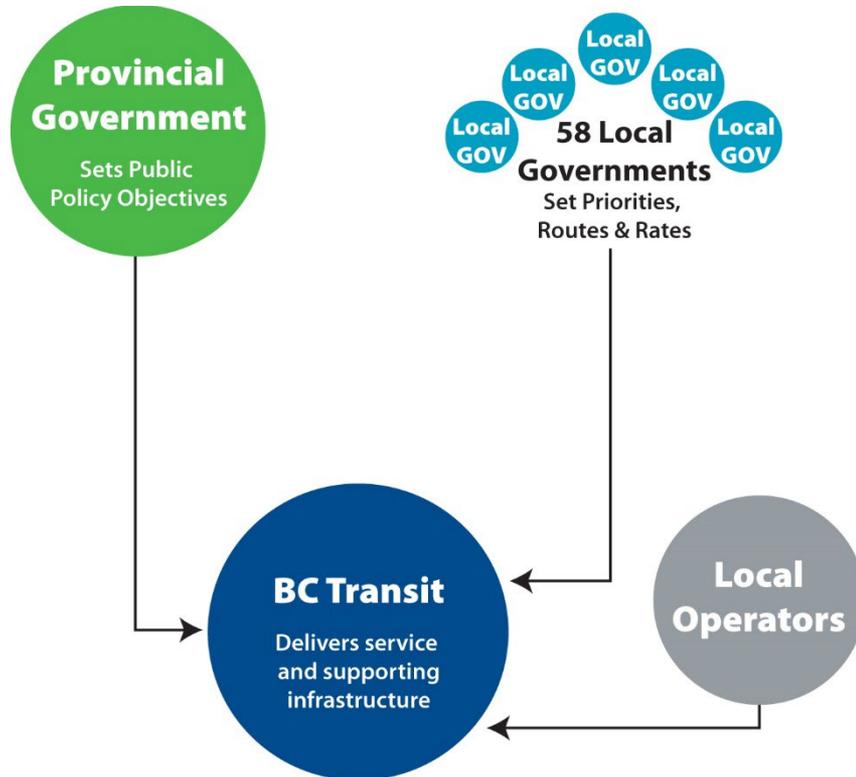


Background: Victoria Regional Transit Commission



- 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

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
 - Victoria Custom and regional transit services are operated via operating contract
- Manages capital program

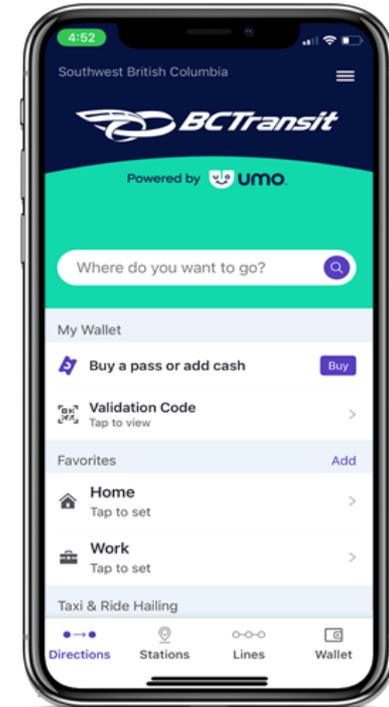
Local Government Collaboration

- 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



Electronic Fare Collection System (Umo)

- BC Transit's new fare collection technology
 - Replacing end-of-life and costly fare technology
 - Better meets the expectations of riders
- Reduces barriers to fare payment and transit access
- Primary customer-facing components:
 - Mobile app
 - Reloadable fare card
 - Onboard fare validator
 - Dedicated customer call centre
- Future ability to enable onboard credit and debit card tap payments
- Increased and improved data to inform recommendations
- **Now launched in the Victoria Regional Transit System!**
- Fare review now underway



Victoria Regional Transit System Deployment

- Battery Electric Demonstration (BEB) bus now in service
- 10 BEBs coming to the VRTS
- New electric bus and charging infrastructure projects in development
- Joint funding announced in July 2023 for \$395.5 million for up to 115 BEBs and 134 charging points



Low Carbon Fleet Program



Provincial carbon emission reductions targets:

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



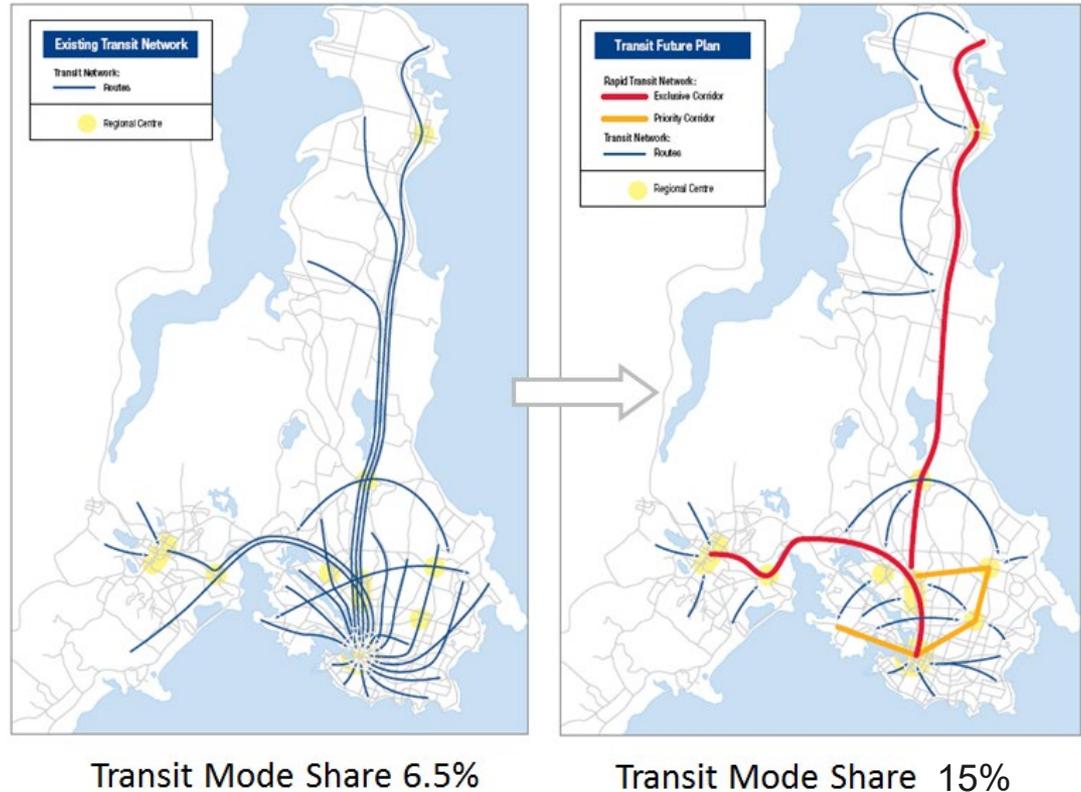
BC Transit has committed to transition to a **fully electric fleet** by 2040

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:

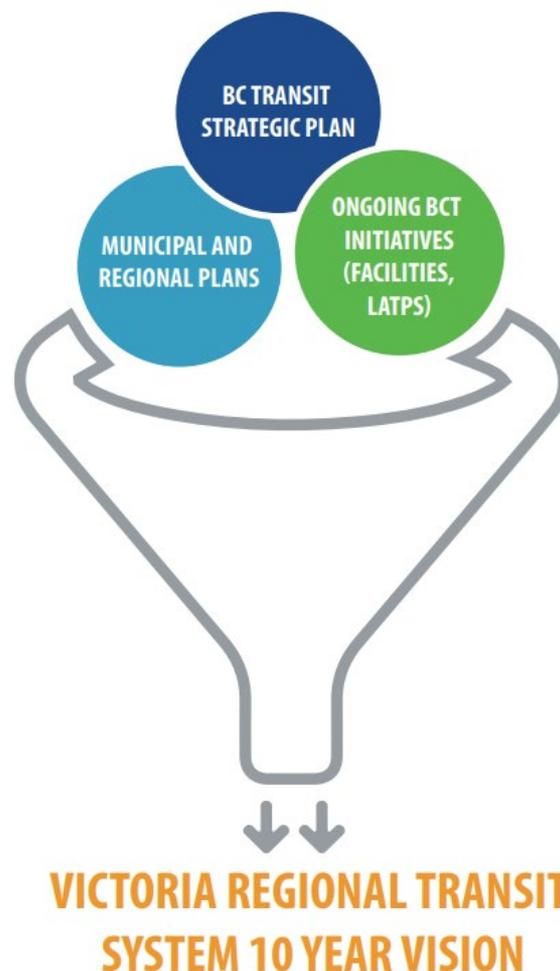
- Rapid Transit
- Frequent Transit
- Local Transit
- Targeted Services



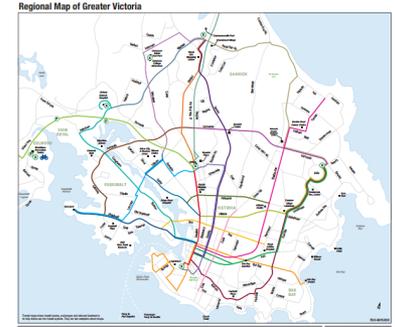
10 Year Vision

The 10 Year Vision:

- Builds upon the framework of the 2011 Transit Future Plan
- Outlines the vision for the Victoria Regional Transit System over the next 10 years, and summarizes all the plans, projects, and priorities seeking to move the transit system towards that vision.
- Is an annually updated, actionable and measurable strategy, providing both the Commission and the public a roadmap for transit development into the future.
- Includes a 15% transit mode share target



Regional Corridor Strategy



- **Project goals:**
 - Provide an updated Transit Future Network
 - Develop and prioritize a strategic transit planning work plan over the next 5-10 years, intended to:
 - Support broader network developments, including the Uptown Mobility Hub, crosstown network development, and RapidBus
 - Increase collaboration with Local Government Partners and alignment between land use and transit planning processes to better achieve collective sustainability goals
 - Revisit existing route classifications, upgrading to FTNs as appropriate
 - Resulting work plan will include a phased list of Corridor Plans and Local Area Transit Plans needed to support the goals of the Regional Corridor Strategy and 10 Year Vision
- Began in January 2023, with the goal of completion by the end of the year

RapidBus

CONNECTED, FREQUENT, FAST AND RELIABLE

- RapidBus is a bus delivered rapid transit service designed to connect and support designated urban centres of high density, mixed-use areas of the region
- Features include branded services, corridor treatments, unique stations, limited stops and high frequencies



RapidBus Implementation Strategy

Endorsed by the Victoria Regional Transit Commission in 2021. The RapidBus Implementation Strategy identifies three top priority RapidBus lines separated into two phases:

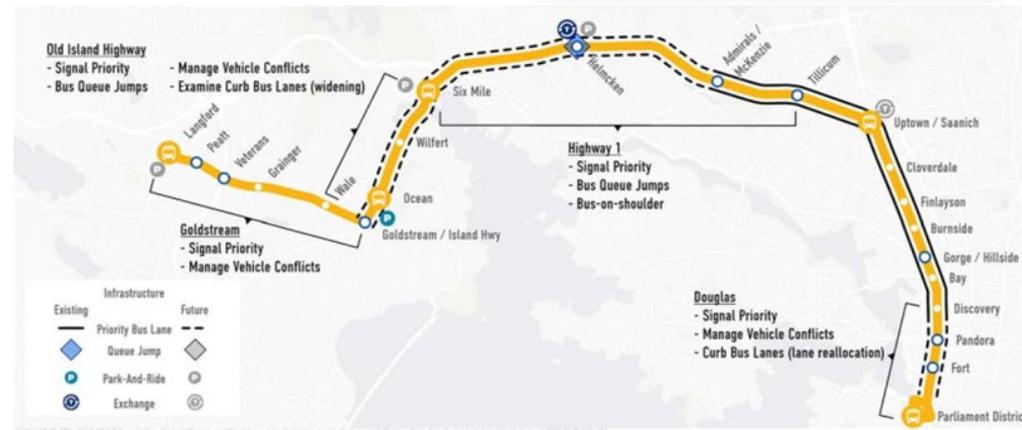
- **West Shore RapidBus Line (Phase 1)**
 - Island Highway Transit Priority Improvements
 - RapidBus Station Study
 - Downtown Victoria Visioning
- **McKenzie RapidBus Line (Phase 2)**
 - Corridor Study
- **Peninsula RapidBus Line (Phase 2)**
 - RapidBus stations
 - Transit hub study (Sidney)



West Shore RapidBus 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



3-Year Transit Expansion

- Key strategic service investments prioritized between 2024/25 and 2026/27 include:
 - RapidBus and Frequent Transit Network service improvements
 - Development of the crosstown network on the Hillside/Gorge and Admirals/McKenzie corridors
 - Simplifying and improving transit service on the Quadra corridor
 - Improvements to YYJ Airport and Peninsula service
- Expansion priorities (conventional and custom transit) tabled for the Commission's approval every September

Island Coastal Inter-Community Transportation Study: BC Transit Involvement

- Study completed by MNP on behalf of the Island Coastal Economic Trust
- Focused on passenger mobility between communities and in rural areas that are not currently served by transit.
- Primarily targeted local governments and First Nations communities but included engagement with other stakeholders
 - BC Transit participated in one engagement session
- Report now available online



Transit-Oriented Development

- Transportation Act now allows the Province to acquire land for the purpose of building housing and community amenities to serve people near transit stations and bus exchanges
- Densification of areas within communities will have implications for transit planning
- Plans underway with MoTI and BCTFA for an Uptown Mobility Hub Transit Oriented Development project

Province to increase housing, services near transit hubs

Share



News Release

Victoria

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 10:30 AM

Media Contacts

Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure

Media Relations
250 356-8241

More from this Ministry

▫ Factsheets & Opinion Editorials



Questions?



Chelsea Mossey –
Senior Manager, Government Relations
CMossey@bctransit.com