



Draft Victoria Regional Transit Plan- Update

Capital Regional District
May 2026



Presentation Purpose

The purpose of today's presentation is to:

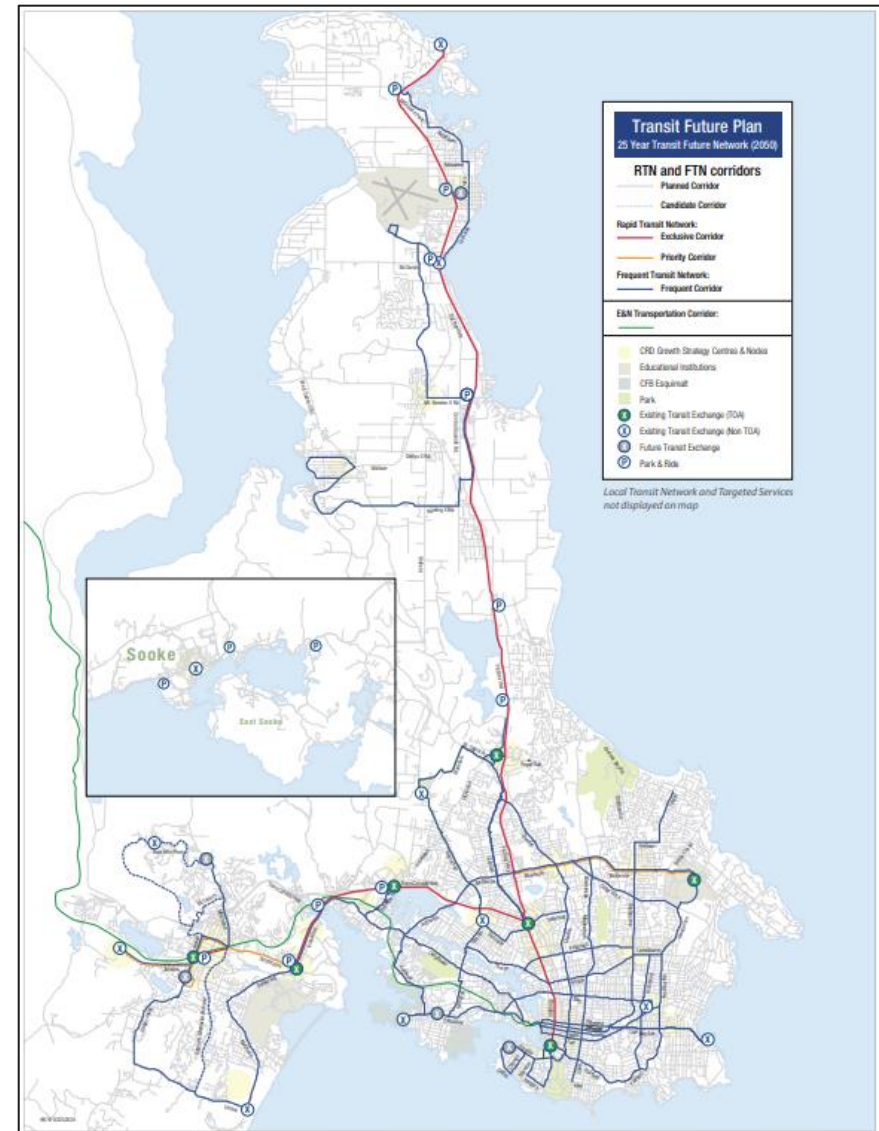
- Provide an overview and status update for the **Victoria Regional Transit Plan** and the next steps.
- To introduce the proposed "**Big Moves**" for the transit system within the proposed 25-year timeline

Presentation for INFORMATION and discussion.



Victoria Regional Transit Plan - Project Overview

- *The Victoria Regional Transit Plan will:*
- Establish a **25-year vision** for the regional network which will align with anticipated growth and travel patterns
- Develop comprehensive **Network and Route Design Guidelines** which will shape the evolution of the network over 25 years
- Consider **Rapid Transit** priorities
- Guide future **infrastructure investment**, including the new Saanich Transit Centre to support fleet growth



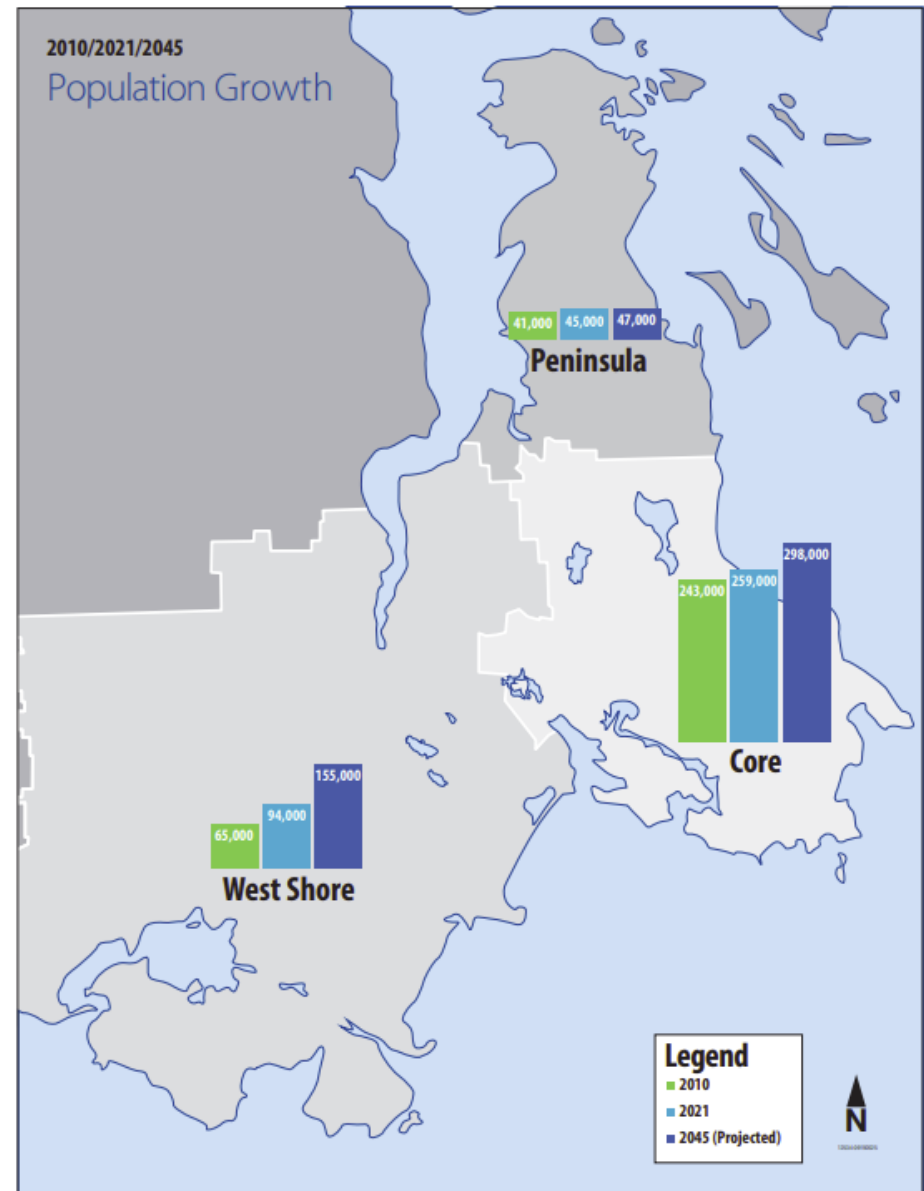
Victoria Regional Corridor Strategy 2024

Governance of the VRTP

- **Project Owner:** BC Transit
- **Approval Authority:** Victoria Regional Transit Commission
 - Meets bi-monthly
 - Sets strategic framework, gives final plan endorsement
- **Project Working Group:** Members of BC Transit, CRD and MOTT
 - Meets monthly, provides overall project guidance
- **CRD Regional Transportation Advisory Committee / CRD Development and Planning Advisory Committee:**
 - Advisory groups to provide strategic guidance
- **Targeted Stakeholder Working Groups:**
 - First Nations rightsholder engagement
 - Community & Neighbourhood Associations
 - Key regional employers, regional institutions, and interregional travel organizations
 - West Shore & Peninsula Transit Network Review working groups

Growing with the Region

- Regional growth trends expected to continue, including **rapid growth in West Shore**
- Need to **modernize network** to better serve changing travel patterns and support **mode share** goals
- **Land use** changes expected to support more efficient and effective **transit** services



Integrating Policy Changes

Provincial "Setting The Ground Rules for Compact, Transit-Oriented Growth"

- **Bill 47** required municipalities to designate TOAs in 5 CRD jurisdictions (Colwood, Langford, Saanich, Victoria, View Royal)
- Mandates **minimum density** and building heights near transit + eliminates parking minimums
- Refreshed South Island Transportation Plan Strategic Framework **emphasizing land use and transportation integration.**

Regional "Building Capacity for Coordinated Transportation Planning"

- CRD has launched the **Regional Transportation Service** to enable shared transit/land-use decision-making and more coordinated delivery of multi-modal transportation services
- Setting regional **mode-shift targets** and funding origin–destination travel surveys and transportation demand modeling to support evidence-based decision-making
- Providing support and resources to align municipal OCPs and regional growth planning with transit priorities

Municipal "Aligning Land Use & Mobility to Support Transit"

- Local governments are **modernizing their OCPs and zoning bylaws**, prioritizing growth along transit corridors and in centres.
- **Parking policies are changing** with minimums removed or reduced, and TDM plans now required in many areas.
- Increasing focus on **active and multimodal access**, with street and trail investments that support future transit use.

BC Transit Accomplishments



Get on board!

KIDS 12 & UNDER RIDE FREE



Current System



58 routes



303 conventional buses

56 handyDART buses



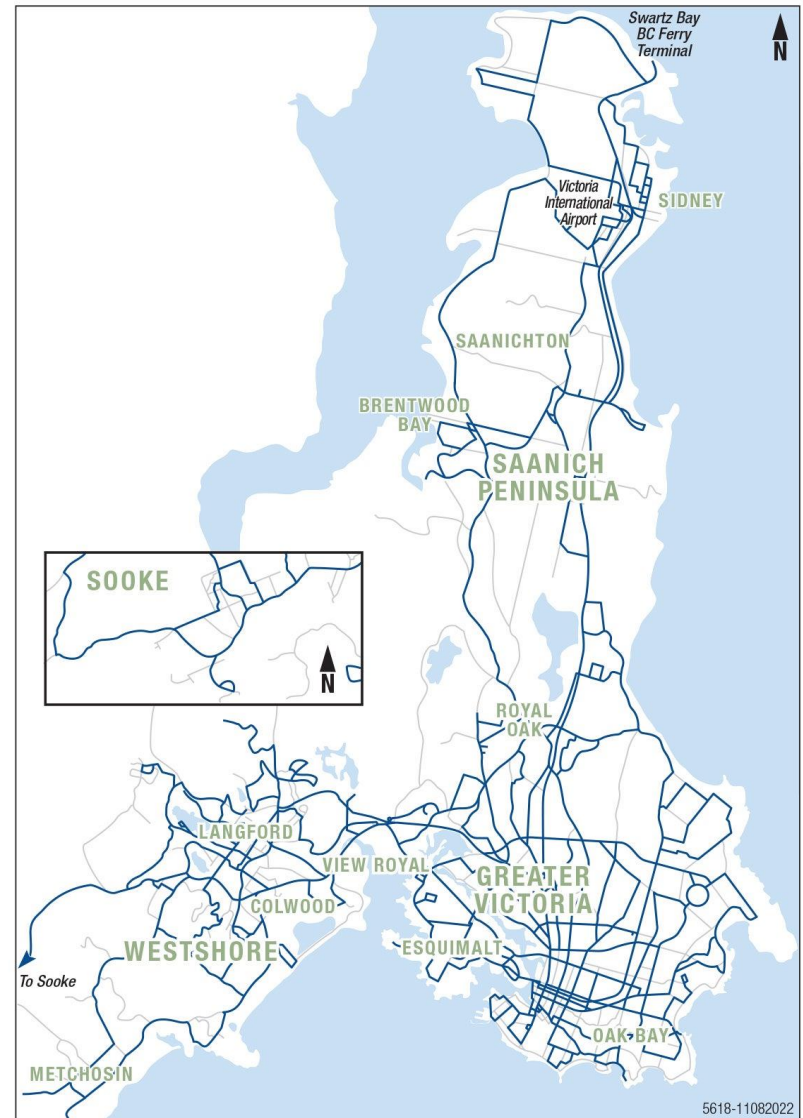
869,000 hours



26+ million boardings

Exceeds peer average in ridership per capita and service hours per capita

Victoria Regional Transit System Service Area



Engagement

Public engagement:

1,857 online survey responses

350+ open house participants

23 stakeholder groups consulted

Plus, workshops with local government partners, regional key stakeholders and major employers, and local neighbourhood associations.

- Desire for **improved frequency**, and improved service reliability
- Interest and support for more **Rapid Transit**
- Desire for simplified routes and direct connections



Network and Route Guidelines

- Establishes a **demand-based framework** for making service decisions
- **Provides clarity** to public, local government partners, and BC Transit around **what kinds of service are expected** in different development patterns
- **Modernizes existing service layers** and aligns standards to better serve the region into the future



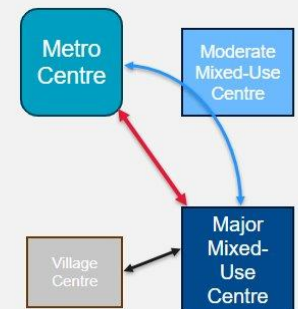
Network Guidelines

inform the structure of the network: "what should connect to what?"



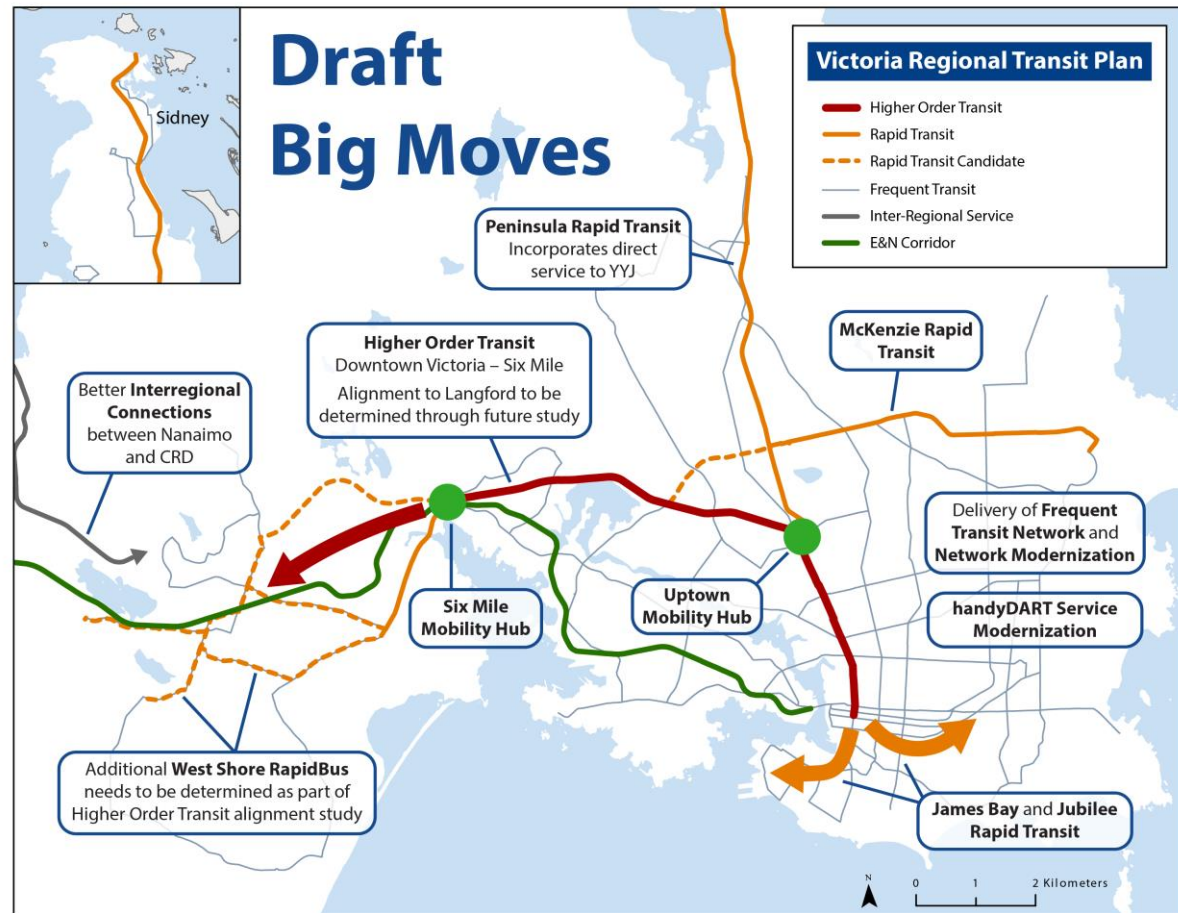
Route Guidelines inform what kinds of service make those connections

- Local
- Frequent
- Rapid



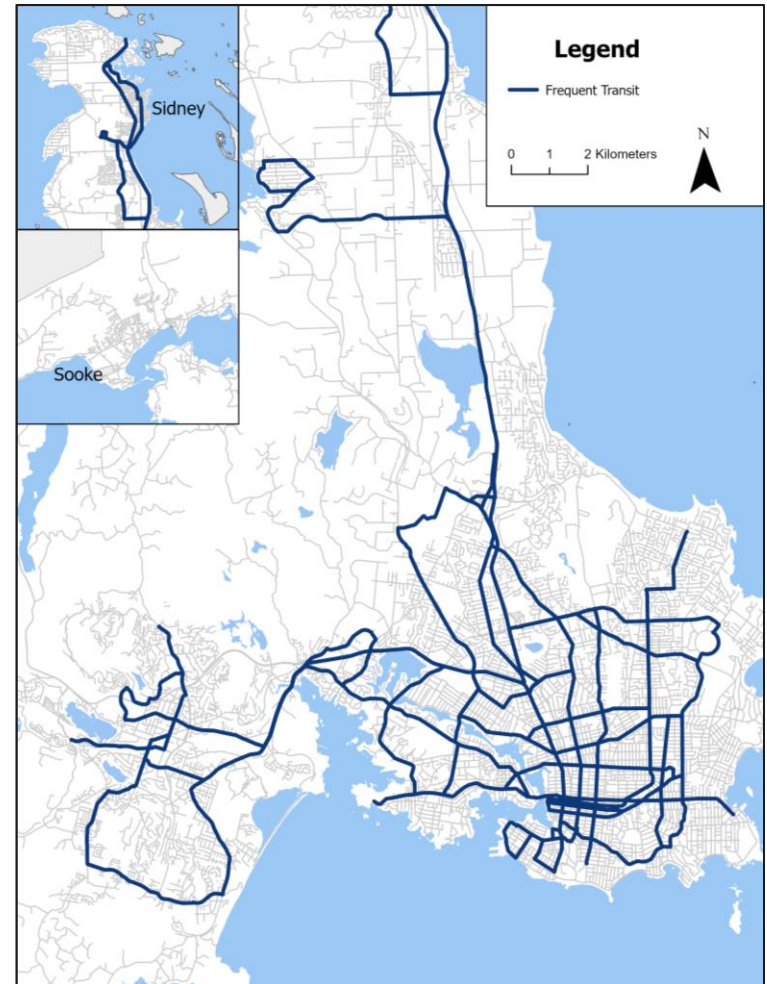
Draft Big Moves

- **Aligns network** with local and regional land use policies
- Modernizes and **expands network** to serve future residents
- Implements and expands **Rapid Transit** services
- **Improves connections** between communities within the CRD
- Supports modernization of **HandyDART**



Big Moves: Network Modernization

- Building out a **Frequent Transit grid** will provide reliable service and better trips
- **Regional** and **Limited Stop** services will provide faster travel options for some trips
- Low density and rural areas may see improved service with **Digital On-Demand**



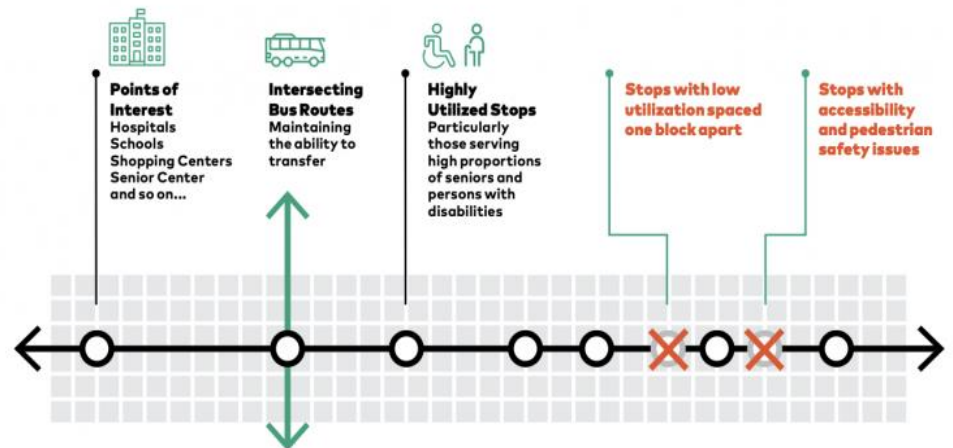
Big Moves: Network Modernization

Current funding constraints exist with consideration to service expansion. BC Transit is exploring opportunities to use what resources we have to improve transit service while waiting for new funding.

Optimization & Efficiency Improvements

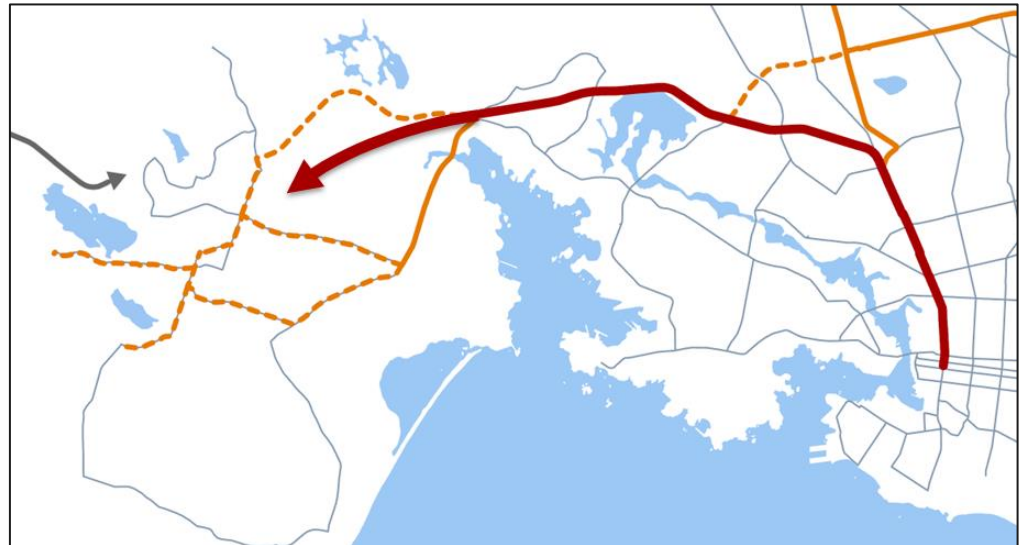
- **Reduced service duplication**
making service more efficient, allowing for resources to be strategically allocated.
- **Harmonized stop spacing** to speed up buses and make service simpler
- **Bus Speed and Reliability**
Support local governments in prioritizing transit on roadways

The Basics of Bus Stop Balancing



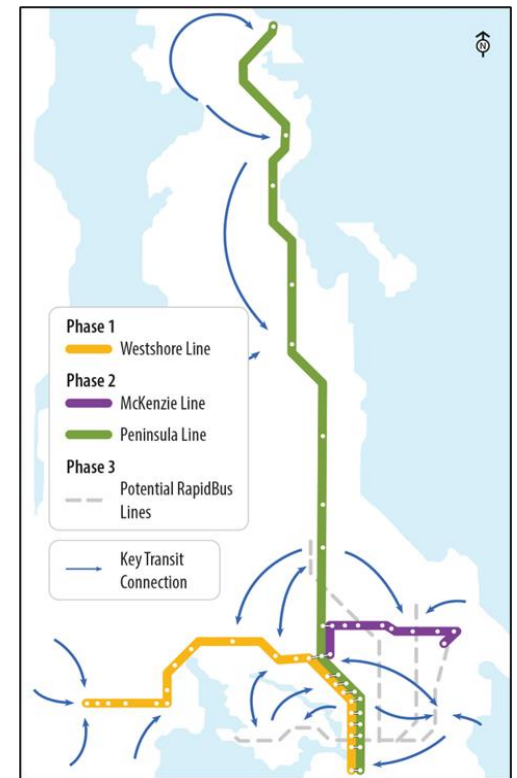
Big Moves: Higher-Order Rapid Transit

- **Downtown Victoria to Six Mile** alignment is confirmed
- Alignment from **Six Mile to Langford** to be confirmed through **additional study**
- Higher-order technology will be reviewed as part of future planning work



Big Moves: Rapid Transit

- **Additional Rapid Transit** corridors in West Shore will be considered based on final alignment of Higher Order Transit
- Phased implementation of **McKenzie** and **Peninsula** Rapid Transit
- **James Bay** and **Jubilee** identified for future Rapid Transit opportunities as larger mixed-use centre
- **Implementation of bus lanes** on **Douglas St.** from Belleville to Herald to support transit service reliability and regional connections



E&N Corridor

Any future investment supporting the E&N Reconciliation Corridor would be complimentary to the overall regional transit network.

The Victoria Regional Transit Plan will acknowledge the E&N Corridor and BC Transit is committed to working with regional partners as the initiative continues to evolve.

Next Steps

- Presenting draft plan to all Municipalities and CRD
- Updating key stakeholders and rightsholders for final feedback
- Draft plan presented to Commission in July for endorsement
 - Opportunity to make plan adjustments once the CRD RTP is completed (Q3, 2027)

Thank You!



Levi Megenbir, *Manager, Service Planning (Victoria Regional Transit)*

Imegenbir@bctransit.com

For more information please visit bctransit.com/victoria