

**REPORT TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025**

SUBJECT Regional Transportation Plan Update

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide an overview on the process to update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including progress to date.

BACKGROUND

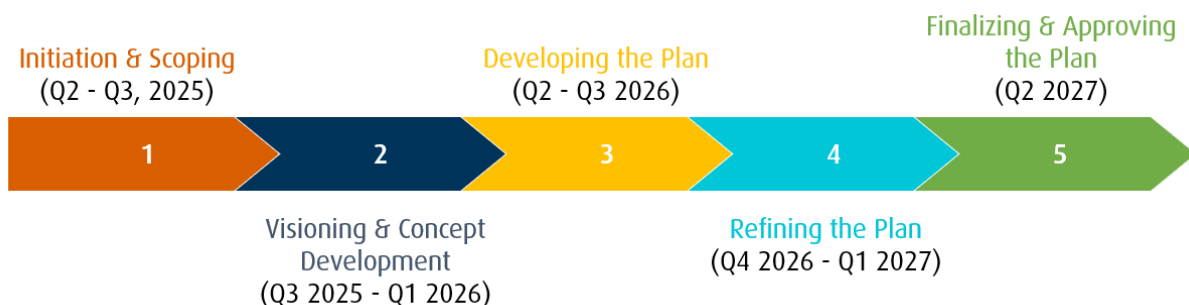
Recognizing that transportation plays a key role in building a resilient, connected and inclusive region, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board identified transportation as a strategic priority for the 2023-2026 term. As a result, the Board approved the establishment of the Regional Transportation Service (RTS) on June 11, 2025. The development of a new RTP is a key next step in achieving this goal. The CRD's existing RTP was approved in 2014 and is in need of a comprehensive update.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will be the long-term strategy to guide how people and goods move throughout the CRD over the next 25 years and beyond. It will help shape major transportation investments and policies to support growing communities, advance equity, address climate goals and adapt to emerging trends and technologies. By aligning with local and regional plans, the RTP will create a unified long-term vision for mobility.

Starting in summer 2025, the CRD will lead a collaborative planning process to update the RTP. This effort will involve all 13 municipalities, three electoral areas, First Nations, BC Transit, the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT), the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) and BC Ferries. The new plan will establish a shared vision for an integrated, sustainable and multimodal regional transportation network. It will articulate shared goals, identify regional priorities and guide future regional transportation investment.

PLANNING PROCESS

The project will be developed through a five-step process, initiating immediately with an anticipated completion in the second quarter of 2027. Initial steps of the project initiation and scoping phase include a strategic review of the existing 2014 RTP, early engagement with stakeholders, and the development of a work plan. This phase of work will guide and define the planning process, including project governance, scope, timeline and deliverables.



Initial engagement and preliminary planning are being coordinated through meetings with the Development Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) and the Transportation Working Group (TWG). Ongoing engagement with these groups will be essential to shaping the RTP process and ensuring alignment with local priorities and expertise. Core technical and project management work will be supported with consultant services, anticipated to initiate later this summer.

Alignment with Other Plans

CRD staff are coordinating closely with BC Transit, which is concurrently developing the Victoria Regional Transit Plan (VRTP) to consider the future of BC Transit service within the CRD. Efforts are being made to ensure mutual support and consistency between the two planning initiatives. In particular, staff are seeking to align municipal and First Nations engagement, when possible, to prevent duplication.

While the VRTP focuses on service design, improvements and capital planning in relation to transit service, the RTP will provide a longer-term regional vision that integrates broader transportation objectives across all modes. The RTP will build upon the VRTP while exploring opportunities and priorities beyond the scope of transit service planning and current funding frameworks.

The RTP will draw from and consider municipal transportation plans, informing local objectives and priorities for road network, vision zero and traffic safety, active transportation, and development. Additionally, the RTP will consider policy direction from the MoTT's South Island Transportation Strategy, which provides a high-level strategy in relation to provincial highways, transit and active transportation priorities. Through alignment and consideration of other local, regional and inter-regional plans and strategies, including CRD strategies such as the Regional Growth Strategy and the Climate Action Strategy, the RTP will serve as a foundational building block required to support applications to the Canada Public Transit Fund, and other future grant programs, in partnership with MoTT and BC Transit.

Next Steps

Staff will continue preliminary planning work to support the project initiation and scoping phase, including background research, identifying gaps, governance review, and resourcing. A project work plan and an engagement and communications strategy are being prepared to guide subsequent steps in the process, including:

- Initiation of technical and supporting studies;
- Establishment of the project governance and advisory structures;
- Requests for Proposal (RFP) for project consultants;
- Launch of a CRD project webpage and preliminary communications strategy; and
- Preparation for an initial phase of engagement anticipated for Fall 2025 to support the visioning and concept development phase.

Staff will provide project updates to the Transportation Committee and Board as the project progresses through key milestones.

CONCLUSION

The Regional Transportation Plan represents a key opportunity to create a bold, shared vision for future mobility in the region. It will identify shared regional transportation priorities, enabling the region to guide infrastructure investments with a unified voice. Early work is underway, with project scoping and preliminary engagement already initiated. Continued collaboration with partners, and alignment with other planning efforts, will be critical to the success of this process. Staff will provide regular updates to the Transportation Committee and Board as the planning process advances through key milestones.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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