



Project Detail

Background:

With growth in the West Shore area contributing to significant increases in vehicular traffic entering Victoria during the past decade, BC Transit, working with the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, has sought to improve rapid transit linkages into Victoria from the West Shore.

In early 2008, a proposed RapidBus connection using a new median on Douglas Street for dedicated bus lanes that could be converted to light rail transit (LRT) in the future, was shelved. As proposed, the Douglas Street Busway plan had met strong opposition, and there was a clear desire for a broader, more comprehensive and integrated regional transportation strategy.

The January 2008 release of the Provincial Transit Plan promoting the expansion of reliable rapid transit in British Columbia provided the opportunity to embark on a more detailed study of rapid transit network options. The Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Project (VRRTP) is intended to develop recommendations for a rapid link between Victoria and the West Shore in a better defined context.

VRRTP Guiding Principles:

1. To develop transit options that offer an alternative to the single occupancy vehicle
2. Make transit more attractive and convenient
3. Link Regional Growth Centres that encourage Transit Oriented Development
4. Support an Integrated Transportation Network
5. Develop an environmentally responsible solution
6. Design a sustainable and affordable transit system

Current Activity:

The first phase of the new project began in September 2008. In consultation with a broadly-based Community Liaison Committee, the Victoria Regional Rapid Transit

Project (VRRTP) team is currently collecting region-wide data on current and forecast travel movement patterns. The data, which includes information travel origins, destinations and volumes, is being used to define key travel corridors and corridor segments for further evaluation.

This spring, a public open house will be held to discuss key transit corridors, their respective advantages, issues and constraints, and to receive input.

The next step will entail identifying possible alignments, and the potential along each for different transit options (or technology modes) such as commuter rail, tram, light rail, RapidBus, water taxi, etc.

Schedule:

The planning component of the VRRTP is scheduled to finish in September 2009 with the selection of a preferred option. Preliminary design is slated to occur from October 2009-January 2010, followed by the detailed design process. A schedule for the implementation phase is still to be determined.

Current Planning Timeline

- Reaffirm/define corridors & issues/constraints
March 2009
- Options/technology mode and evaluate viable options
June 2009
- Identify preferred option
July 2009
- Preliminary business case
September 2009

Budget:

The planning stage of the VRRTP is estimated to cost approximately \$800,000. Once the preferred solution has been identified, the cost of the next phases can be estimated.

More Information:

- [Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Project Work Plan \(pdf - 1.4mb\)](#)
- [Work Flow Diagram \(pdf - 46 kb\)](#)
- [Meeting Schedule \(pdf - 144 kb\)](#)
- [Rapid Transit Glossary \(pdf - 1.4 mb\)](#)
- [Detailed Guiding Principles \(pdf - 27 kb\)](#)
- [Project organizational structure \(pdf - 203 kb\)](#)
- [Engineering group background \(pdf - 48 kb\)](#)