



Saanich Community Association Network

Saanich Transit Centre

February 4, 2026



Purpose

- Provide an update to the early plans for the future Saanich Transit Centre

Victoria Regional Facilities



Regional Transit Facilities – Nearing Capacity

- A new Operations & Maintenance facility was first identified as a priority investment within the 2011 Victoria Regional Transit Plan
- Regional Transit facilities (Victoria and Langford) are set to reach capacity by as early as 2028. Without additional space, we cannot add more buses/increase service.
- The Saanich Transit Centre is essential to the Victoria Regional Transit System's ability to respond to population growth and deliver on regional and provincial transportation and climate goals.

Victoria Transit Facility [1986]



Langford Transit Centre [1999]



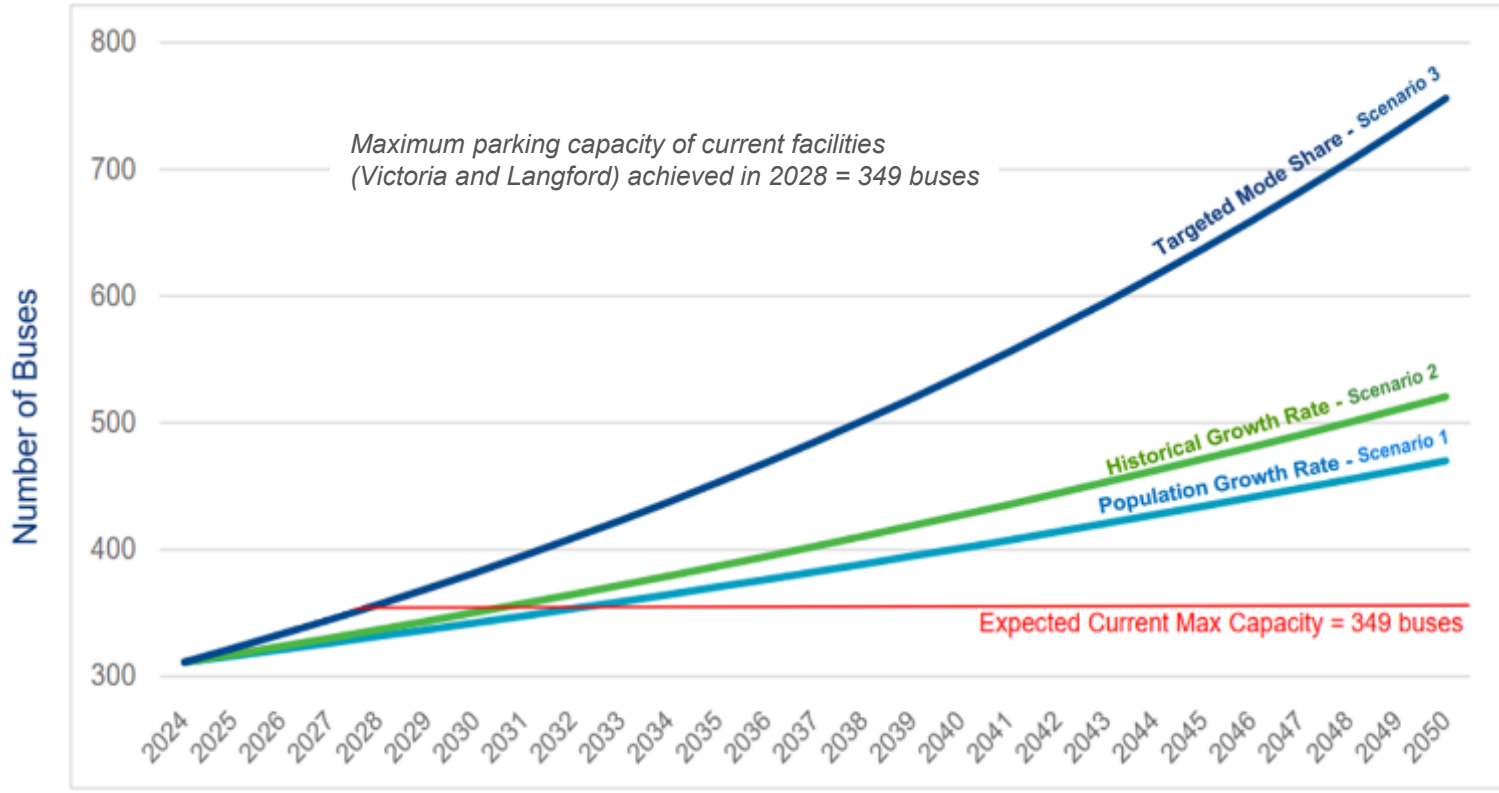
handyDART Centre in View Royal [2025]



Regional Demand Drivers

- **Forecast Need:** A new Operations & Maintenance facility was first identified in 2011 in the Victoria Regional Transit Plan and is expected to be identified as a critical need in the updated Victoria Regional Transit Plan which will be finalized in 2026
- **Population Growth Impact:** Regional population has grown by +50,000 since 2011, driving increased demand for transit
- **Transit Mode Share:** The Victoria Regional Transit Commission has an ambitious target of a 15 per cent transit mode share by 2050, which would require more than double the current service levels
- **Land Use Plans:** The adoption of new Official Community Plans, updated Transportation Plans, ambitious climate targets, and provincial Transit-Oriented Development areas requires significant investment in modern transit facilities to support expanded service and meet future mobility needs

Regional Demand Forecast



How we got here

| Date | Activity |
|-------------|---|
| 2011 | Identified need for third Operations & Maintenance facility in the Victoria Regional Transit Future Plan |
| 2011 – 2020 | Properties totaling ~5 acres have been strategically acquired in Saanich's Royal Oak industrial area |
| 2020 – 2025 | Relocated existing handyDART operations to new View Royal facility in 2025, freeing up space for Saanich Transit Centre |
| 2021 – 2022 | Secured funding for project planning and business case development |
| 2023 - date | Secured funding for site preparation |
| 2024 – 2025 | Technical studies to prepare for future development |
| 2024 – 2025 | Early public and First Nations engagement [on-going] |
| 2025 – 2026 | Site preparation and demolition activities |

Future Saanich Transit Centre



The Site



- Central location with access to Patricia Bay Highway
- Consolidating five BC Transit owned properties (5.14 acres)
- Industrial Zoning in place permitting this use
- Two properties historically used for bus operations and maintenance
- Planned use as next Operations & Maintenance Facility and designed to be electric vehicle ready
- Can accommodate up to 200 buses at full capacity.

Foundational Planning Steps Underway

Site Analysis and Technical Constraints

Assess geotechnical conditions, access, and utilities to inform design options

Functional Program and Construction Scope

Define operational requirements, site capacity, current and future maintenance needs to inform facility design, as well as determine potential approaches to construction and risk mitigation

Implementation Strategy

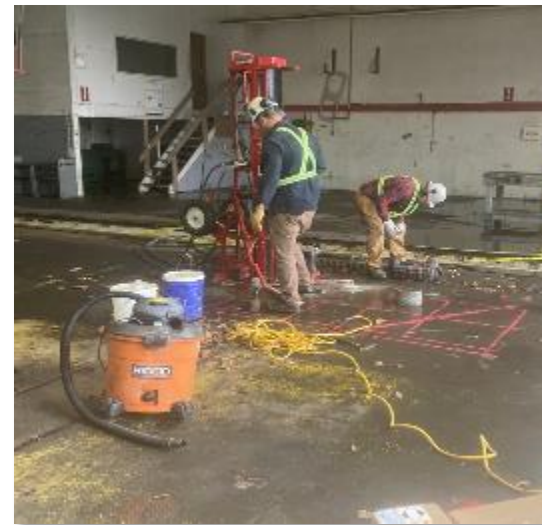
An initial facility build to meet short/medium term expansion needs, while also protecting for longer term facility expansion. The property is sufficient to support long-term growth, as well as integration with other regional transportation plans, e.g., RapidBus

What's Planned

- **Administration and Maintenance Building** - A modern hub for operations, secure parking and bus maintenance.
- **Multi-Level Structure** - Maximizes space. Much of the operation will be located underground, reducing the visible footprint.
- **Access Points** - One entry and exit on Commerce Circle and Glanford Avenue.
- **Sustainability** - Designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, reflecting a strong commitment to environmental responsibility and energy efficiency.
- **Battery Electric Bus (BEB) ready** - To support future electric bus fleet.
- **Accessibility** - Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification principles, ensuring an inclusive environment for all users.
- **Community Integration** - Will be thoughtfully designed to minimize visual and operational impact.
- **Future-Ready:** Initial buildout ~150 buses with flexibility to expand to ~200+ buses.

Site Preparation

- Site assessment and technical studies completed over past year to inform future development plans
- All technical studies are available on project website
- Demolition expected to take approximately six months, starting in mid 2026.
- Vacant buildings currently being utilized for police training by regional units
- Construction Manager RFP closes on February 25th.



Technical Studies [to date]

- Stage 1 Preliminary Site Investigation
- Stage 2 Preliminary Site Investigation
- Preliminary Geotechnical Assessment
- Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment
- Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Demolition Impact Assessment and Tree Management Plan

Public Engagement

- Presented to Carey Area Residents' Association in May and Royal Oak Community Association in September 2025
- Attended Music in the Park in Brydon Park in July 2025, connecting with 175 people
- 45 people attended two neighbourhood open houses on the former Wilson's site on August 14 and August 16, 2025
- Project information hand-delivered to neighbourhood homes
- Website: www.bctransit.com/saanichtransitcentre
- Subscriber e-newsletter
- Further community engagement planned for early 2026 to inform site planning and design



First Nations Consultation

- Consultation with First Nations regarding site preparation work commenced in 2023 and is ongoing. The Nations being consulted include:
 - Songhees Nation
 - Tsartlip First Nation
 - Tsawout First Nation
 - Tseycum First Nation
 - Kosapsum (Esquimalt) Nation
 - Malahat Nation
 - Pauquachin First Nation
 - Scianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation
- First Nations are also being consulted on regional transit and transportation plans through a concurrent, collaborative process between BC Transit, CRD, Ministry of Transportation and Transit and Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada which commenced in September 2025.

Independent Protection and Monitoring

- Environmental protection is a key planning principle applied to site design and operational planning. The development will meet or exceed all municipal, provincial and federal standards for environmental protection.
- Run off and water quality protection paramount understanding the proximity Gabo Creek
- A demolition Impact Assessment and Tree Management plan developed to retain and protect municipal and off-site trees, and preserve on-site trees where feasible with protective measures
- CM RFP has established points criteria around sustainability/Salvage, social procurement and Indigenous participation initiatives
- **Design consultant: McElhanney**
- **Independent Environmental Monitor: Aqua-Tex Scientific**



Engagement of Local Government Partners

- The Victoria Regional Transit Commission directed staff to initiate engagement with local government officials regarding the Saanich Transit Centre project by:
 - Presenting the project concept to the CRD Transportation Committee for information (Presented on January 28th); and
 - Offering to attend as a delegation to municipal Councils that request a presentation;
 - AND THAT this engagement occur prior to the VRTC considering approval of the STC project in July 2026
- BC Transit is in early discussions with the District of Saanich staff to understand municipal needs

Partnership Funding Approach

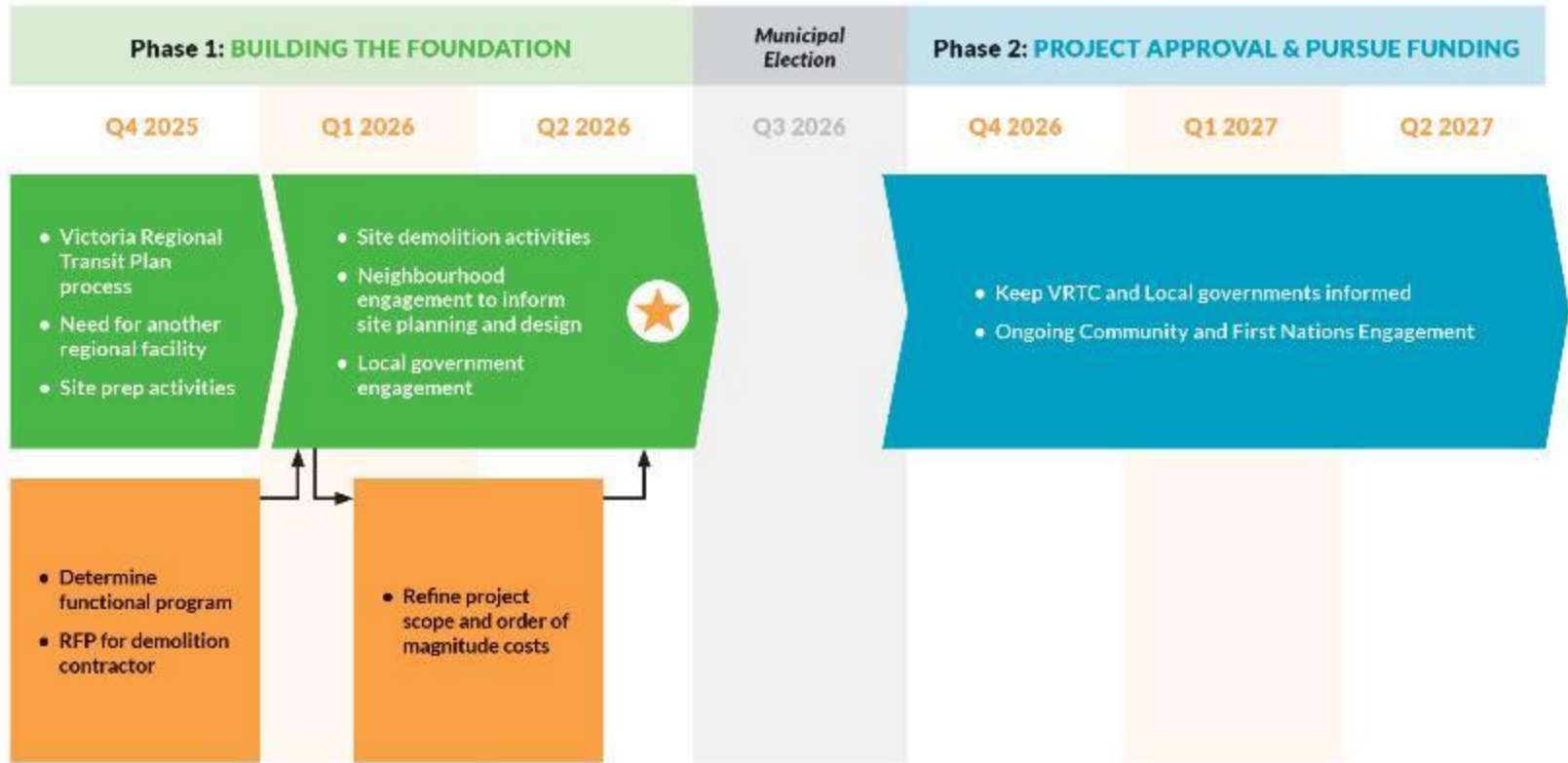
Strategic Path Forward

- Project will be positioned for maximum eligibility and approval under senior government programs
- Significant investment required. Project cost estimates expected in February

Potential funders:

- **Victoria Regional Transit Commission:** Funded through fare revenue and advertising, property tax transit levy contribution and the *Motor Fuel Tax Act*
- **Provincial Government:** Provincial funding will be pursued through Treasury Board application
- **Federal Government:** Federal funding will be pursued in collaboration with the Province

Project Engagement



★ VRTC Endorsement to Submit Treasury Board Submission

Key Dates

| Dates | Activity |
|-----------------|---|
| January 2026 | Ongoing Community, Local Government, and First Nations Engagement |
| Feb – June 2026 | Ongoing Community and Indigenous engagement, CRD Transportation and local Government updates, Project costing |
| July 2026 | VRTC – Engagement update. Seeking formal Approval from the Commission |
| July >> ongoing | Ongoing Community and Indigenous engagement |

Stay Informed



Website/E-newsletter: www.bctransit.com/saanichtransitcentre



Request presentation [or handyDART Centre tour]
saanichtransitcentre@bctransit.com



Attend open house in March 2026

Thank You!