

January 7, 2009

RELEASE: EXPANDED SOOKE PARK AND RIDE TRANSIT FACILITY RE-OPENS

VICTORIA, B.C. – Today, BC Transit and the Victoria Regional Transit Commission officially re-opened the upgraded Park and Ride transit facility in Sooke. The expanded facility boasts 99 new parking stalls, two new bus shelters, and amenities such as bike racks and lockers.

"This facility will support the growing needs of our customers in Sooke and encourage greater transit use," said Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO of BC Transit.

"The expansion of the Sooke Park and Ride was strongly supported by the District of Sooke," said Janet Evans, Mayor of Sooke. "As the Sooke population continues to grow, so does the demand for transit."

T'Sou-ke First Nations Chief Gordon Planes was on-hand to celebrate the opening of the new facility, and Elder Shirley Alphonse, blessed the site.

Located off Sooke Road (Highway 14) at Sooke River Road, the Park and Ride facility is serviced by **#61 Sooke/Downtown** and **#66 East Sooke**. The site originally had 24 stalls. Ridership in the region is expected to increase by over five per cent annually.

"The greatly expanded Park and Ride facility will make it easier for Sooke residents to park their cars and take the bus," said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Shirley Bond. "The Province and its partners are improving transit services in Sooke and in communities throughout British Columbia to meet a growing demand."

Construction began in September 2009.

To view the new winter service schedule for the Victoria Regional Transit System, visit www.bctransit.com, call (250) 382-6161 or pick up the latest Rider's Guide.

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