

March 19, 2009

RELEASE: VICTORIA REGIONAL RAPID TRANSIT TOPIC OF OPEN HOUSE

Public open houses will be held March 31 and April 1, 2009 to gather input during the early planning stage of the Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Project, announced Manuel Achadinha, BC Transit President & CEO.

The Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Project (VRRTP) team is currently researching regional travel movement patterns to define key corridors for further evaluation. "This essential step will build the foundation, and from there we can get into the question of specific routes and which transport modes are best suited to the corridors," says Achadinha. He adds "this project is starting with a clean slate and looking at where we can gain the most benefit for the most people with rapid transit in the Greater Victoria area."

A Community Liaison Committee has been meeting monthly since December to work with the VRRTP team and communicate with more than 30 interest groups represented on the committee. Committee Chair Geoff Pearce notes that "at this point in the process we are looking at the basics of where, how, and why people are travelling throughout the region --- meaning all options are under consideration, and all ideas and concerns will be addressed up-front." He comments further that "then, we will concentrate on the West Shore transit corridors to ensure what is best for these communities is our next priority."

The open houses will be held from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Ramada Inn Victoria (123 Gorge Road) on March 31, 2009, and at the Four Points Victoria Gateway (829 McCallum Road) on April 1, 2009. Additional public sessions will be held as planning continues this summer.

The VRRTP will develop rapid transit options that provide an attractive, safe, convenient, reliable and green alternative to automobile travel in the Capital Region, beginning with connections to the West Shore.

Further information on the VRRTP is posted on the project web pages at www.bctransit.com/VRRT.

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About BC Transit

BC Transit is the provincial Crown Corporation responsible for 82 transit systems in 52 communities across British Columbia. In collaboration with its local partners, BC Transit serves over 46 million customers annually.

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