

## Central Okanagan Transit Future Action Plan Project Overview

### Introduction

Completed in 2012, the Central Okanagan Transit Future Plan provided a vision of the region's transit network over the next 25 years. This included establishing the vision and goals of the transit system, identifying the future transit network, and outlining the detailed implementation priorities for service, infrastructure and investments needed to achieve the goals. Since the adoption of that plan, many of the short-term priorities have now been accomplished, these include:

- The introduction of the 97 Okanagan RapidBus and subsequent local service integration
- The introduction of new frequent and local routes throughout the region
- Improvement to the service frequencies on local and frequent routes
- Introduction of significant infrastructure improvements throughout the region



Since many of the projects identified in the 2012 plan are now complete, it is important that the project priorities be updated to continue to guide decision-making over the next 1-5 years and beyond.

The purpose of the Central Okanagan Transit Future Action Plan is to update transit service and infrastructure recommendations for the entire region. These updated recommendations and networks, along with the previously identified vision, goals and targets, will continue to shape how transit works in the region for the next 25 years. The updated plan will continue to support local community goals and objectives, such as strengthening the link between transportation and land-use in order to support sustainable growth. The updated plan will also focus more attention on service optimization-related projects (whereby existing service is analyzed and reallocated as necessary), to ensure that the existing resources are being used as efficiently as possible.

Additional emphasis in this plan will be placed on short-term projects (1-5 years) to assist local partners in developing local capital and operating budgets. The refresh of this plan is also an opportunity to remove dated information, as well as add new pertinent material such as the detailed Service Standards and Performance Guidelines which will assist in future decision-making processes.

## Approach

The Central Okanagan Transit Future Plan study area includes all municipalities, First Nation communities and populated areas within the Central Okanagan Regional District. In addition to the local partners, consideration will also be made to neighbouring regions with regards to interregional connectivity. The process will be led by BC Transit with direct collaboration with local government partners as well as ongoing key stakeholder consultation and engagement.

In order to maintain continuity with the 2012 Central Okanagan Transit Future Plan and leverage the extensive inputs and ideas that have already been provided by public consultation participants, the materials from that process will be used to help formulate sections in this plan refresh. This includes the vision, goals, transit future network and mode share targets. Service option development will be coupled with ongoing communication with local staff, key stakeholders and the Operating Company at key junctures in order to receive input on concepts.

## Engagement

The development of this transit plan will be highly collaborative and include all of the local partners, transit system staff, the public and representatives from a wide array of stakeholder organizations. The engagement process will be designed to be inclusive, reaching riders and non-riders alike. The engagement plan will combine both BC Transit and local partner engagement strategies to develop and implement appropriate, meaningful, timely and effective public engagement that follows the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) guidelines.



The overall goal of the planning process is to ensure the final plan is reflective of community desires. The time of this engagement also provides an opportunity to market and promote the transit system, especially since the system marks its 40 year anniversary in 2017 and this upcoming milestone can be highlighted through the process.

## Timeline

The project is expected to take approximately 12-16 months to complete. Below is an overview of the timeline of the project.

