

TRANSIT AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE COMOX VALLEY INTERREGIONAL CONNECTION

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board endorse an application to the Transit Minor Betterment program for transit amenity improvements in Deep Bay to facilitate the interregional connection with the Comox Valley Regional District on the Route 99.
2. That the Board endorse an application to the Transit Minor Betterment program for transit amenity improvements at Magnolia Court commercial centre on Route 99.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2023 Transit Improvement Program (TIP), BC Transit identified the necessary service hours to implement an interregional connection between the Comox Valley Regional District's (CVRD) Route 10 Fanny Bay and the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Route 99 Deep Bay. Both the CVRD and RDN received expansion hours to implement the connection in September 2024, for which detailed scheduling, logistics, and transit amenity improvements are currently being explored.

The RDN received 500 annual service hours to introduce service on the Route 99 on Sunday and Monday, providing seven-day service. The CVRD's Route 10 received expansion hours to support the interregional connection between Monday – Saturday and they are working with BC Transit to find solutions to connect with the Route 99 on Sunday. Initial schedules have been created for a timed connection that will happen at approximately 10 am and 6 pm in Deep Bay. There will be minimal impacts to other Route 99 connections, such as the Route 91 Intercity.

RDN staff took the initiative to explore funding options for improved transit amenities along the Route 99 in anticipation of the interregional connection, to improve the safety of bus stops and provide enhanced passenger amenities (seating areas, shelters, lighting). Two locations were identified, the Magnolia Court commercial centre in Bowser as it is a key destination (Attachment 1), and the Deep Bay Marina because it is the most feasible location for an exchange point between the Route 99 and Route 10 (Attachment 2). Improved transit amenities would include a shelter with a bench, accessible cement pad and solar lighting.

Both locations, Magnolia Court and the Deep Bay Marina, are within Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Right-of-Way which makes them eligible for funding from the Transit Minor Betterments Program. This program provides up to \$100,000 in funding for any project that improves safety for transit users, comes from public and local government requests, increases the number of people using transit, expands transit services for seniors and people with mobility challenges, and minimizes the impact of transportation on greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. Both locations on the Route 99 have been preliminarily supported as good candidates for the Transit Minor Betterments grant program by MoTI staff.

However, through the grant application process, it was identified that the Deep Bay Marina is a known archeological site, and any soil disturbance would require a Site Alteration Permit (SAP) and a Cultural Heritage Investigation Permit (CHIP). Initial conversations confirmed that the K'omoks and Qualicum First Nations will be unlikely to support any transit amenity improvements that would require significant soil disturbance. After further discussions with all partners, it was determined that, logistically, Deep Bay is the most feasible location for the interregional connection point. In light of this, RDN staff are exploring transit amenity options that require minimal site preparation, and alternate transfer points in Deep Bay are being considered. Conversations with First Nations will be on-going and the RDN has engaged with an Archeologist.

In order to complete the applications to the Transit Minor Betterment program, staff is seeking the Committee's support to continue with transit amenity improvements in Bowser and Deep Bay.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If both Transit Minor Betterments applications are approved, up to \$100,000 for each project will be funded by the grant. The cost estimate for the Magnolia Court improvement is under \$100,000; however, the cost estimate for the Deep Bay Marina improvements is still being explored and will likely cost more than the approved grant, requiring additional financial support from BC Transit, the CVRD, and the RDN.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Managing Impacts of Climate Change - Shift to more environmentally sustainable modes of transportation to help achieve provincial objectives and regional targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

REVIEWED BY:

- M. Getchell, Manager, Transit Operations
- D. Marshall, Senior Manager, Transportation Services
- C. Crabtree, General Manager, Corporate and Transportation Services
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Magnolia Court Scope Sketch
2. Deep Bay Marina Scope Sketch

Magnolia Court



Restaurants



Hotels



Things to do



Transit



Parking



Pharma

Magnolia Court

4.5 ★★★★★ (34)

Shopping mall

Overview

Reviews

About



Directions



Save



Nearby



Send to
phone



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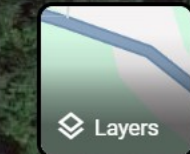
Bowser, BC V0R 1G0



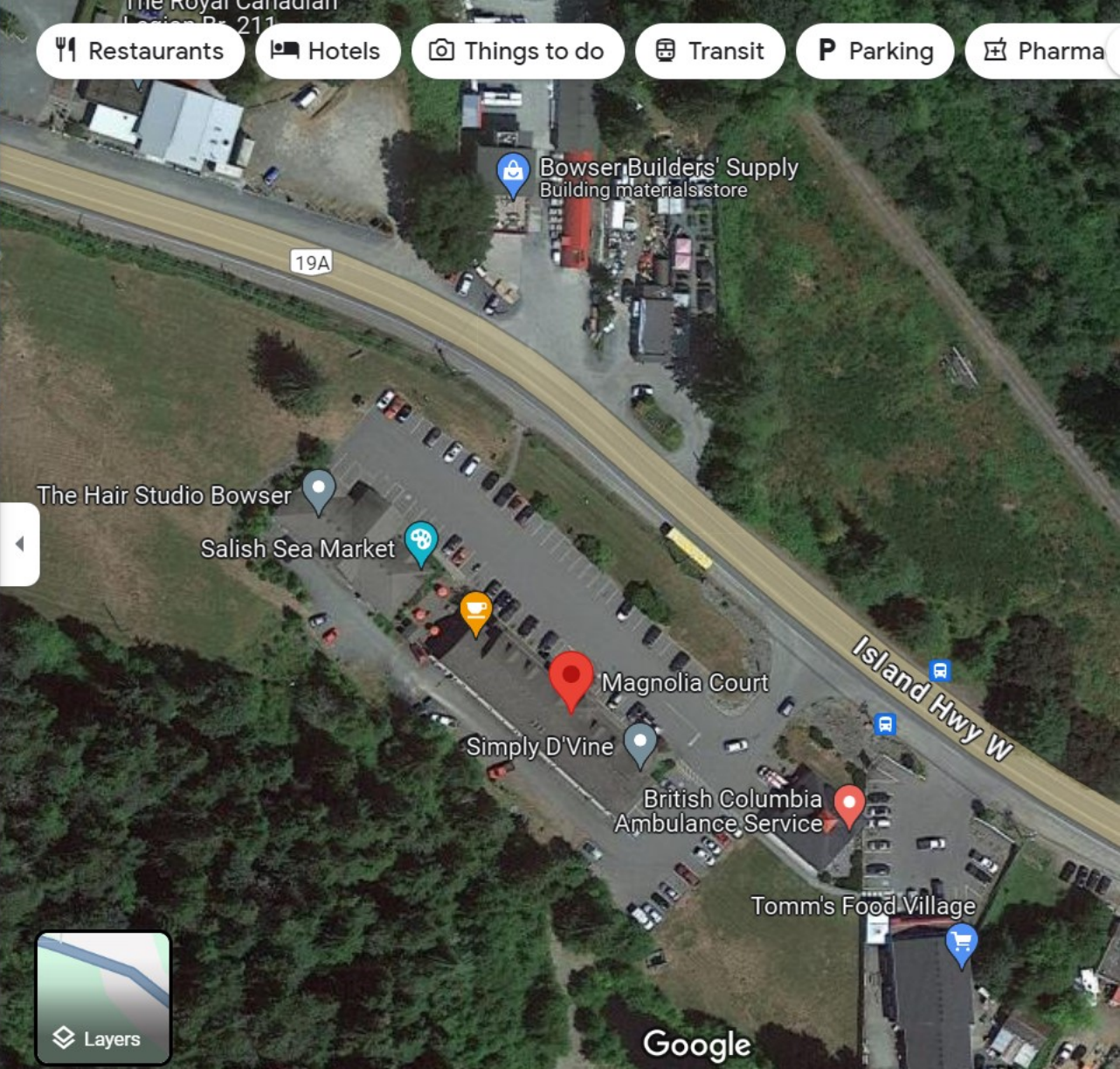
Open · Closes 7 p.m. ▾



C8MF+VV Bowser, British Columbia



Layers





Paving and Painting,
approx. 2m x 20m

Approx 2m x 3m
Concrete Foundation
and Shelter



6990

Magnolia Court



6990 Island Hwy W

Bowser, British Columbia



Google Street View

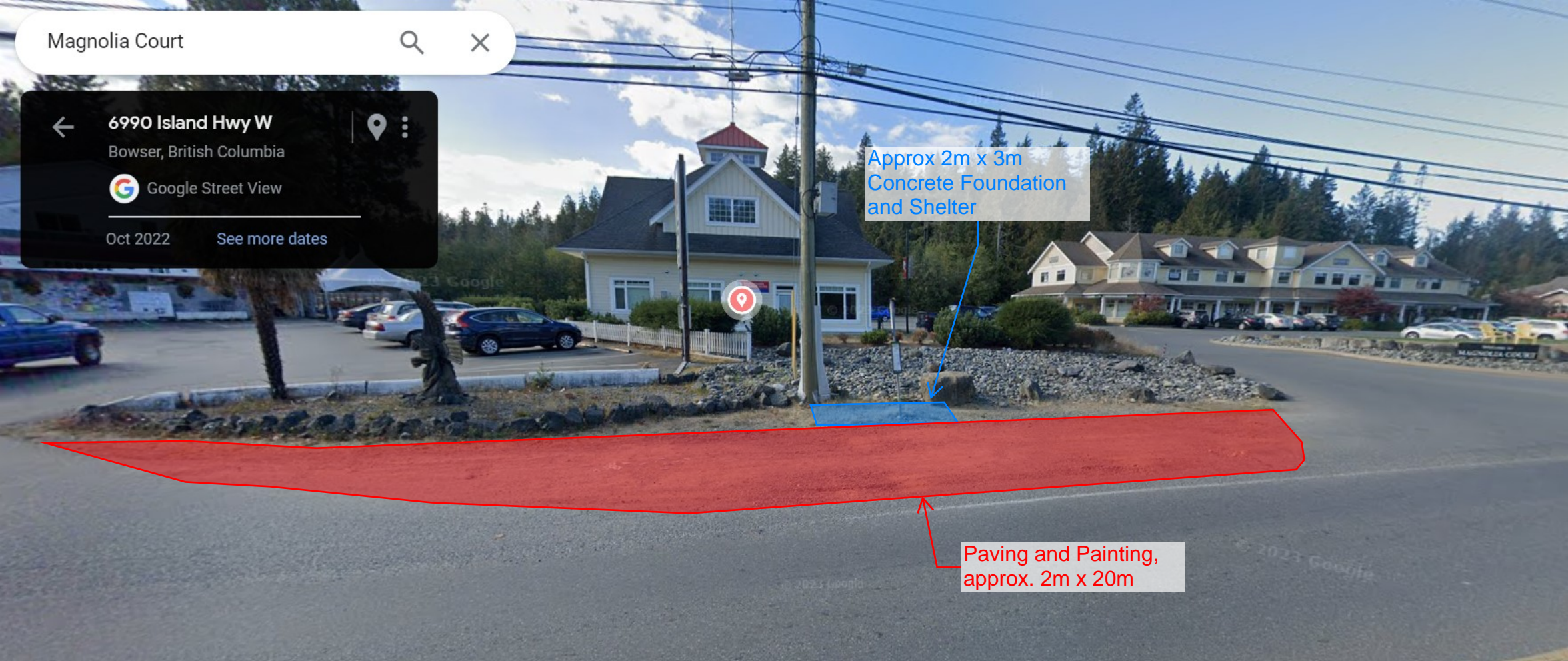
Oct 2022

See more dates



Approx 2m x 3m
Concrete Foundation
and Shelter

Paving and Painting,
approx. 2m x 20m



Deep Bay Marina

Paved shoulder,
approx. 2m x 35m

Bus shelter, approx.
2m x 3m

Deep Bay Boat Launch

Ship and Shore
Restaurant & Marine...
Seafood • \$\$

Google



160 Burne Rd

British Columbia



Google Street View

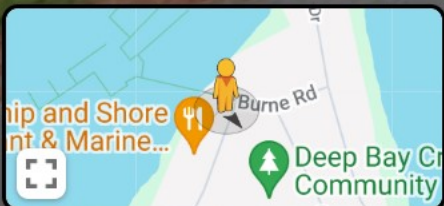
Jun 2012

[See more dates](#)



Bus shelter, approx.
2m x 3m

Paved shoulder,
approx. 2m x 35m



Google