



April 11, 2025

Darren Marshall
Senior Manager, Transportation Services
Regional District of Nanaimo
6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

Dear Darren,

Following the recent communication to local governments on March 4th regarding BC Transit's 2025-26 Budget and Service Plan, we would like to provide you with an update on the outcome of our expansion prioritization process to confirm expansion initiatives that will be moving forward for implementation. As outlined in that communication, BC Transit's confirmed operating budget of \$432.0M (\$183.8M in provincial funding) will enable BC Transit and many of our local government partners to expand service levels to meet increased demand.

Every year, BC Transit's expansion prioritization process is used to rank all expansion requests across the province according to strategic priorities including ridership productivity, critical fixes (such as chronic pass-ups and capacity issues), alignment with existing land uses and GHG mitigation, and functional capacity. In addition to the evaluation ranking, other factors must be considered including capacity of the operational facility, planned critical infrastructure, and vehicle availability. In 2024, several improvements were made to our evaluation process to better define certain criteria, to align with Provincial policy priorities, and to balance metrics like ridership productivity with initiatives that have consistently been put forward without successful approval.

Local governments across the Province have once again requested an unprecedented level of service expansion for 2025-26, and this has significantly exceeded the availability of matching funding and resources. Therefore, the results of our expansion evaluation have been applied to our list of expansion requests to determine where available Provincial expansion funding will be allocated. The approved expansion requests are typically those that have a high potential for ridership growth, and/or are addressing acute operational challenges that can only be solved with an investment of service hours/vehicles.

The following expansion initiative(s) have been approved for implementation:

NANAIMO CONVENTIONAL	Strategy 2 from the RDN Transit Redevelopment Strategy.	4000 annual service hours	3 expansion vehicles
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NANAIMO/COWICHAN COMMUTER	Addition of Sunday service and on time performance improvements.	1000 annual service hours	0 expansion vehicles
NANAIMO CUSTOM	Expand weekend and introduce holiday service to more closely reflect Conventional Transit Service (2000 hours). Weekday span improvements (1000 hours).	3000 annual service hours	2 expansion vehicles

The following expansion initiative(s) have not been approved for implementation and can be put forward for consideration in the next annual transit expansion cycle.

NANAIMO CONVENTIONAL	Balance of Strategy 2 from the RDN Transit Redevelopment Strategy.	12,100 annual service hours	5 expansion vehicles
NANAIMO CONVENTIONAL	Route 99 Extension on Baylis Rd., Dorman Rd. (Electoral Area H)	250 annual service hours	0 expansion vehicles

Over the coming months, BC Transit will work with your local government and the local service provider to prepare for the implementation of expanded transit service to your system. This will include regular engagement with staff to ensure that the expanded service is consistent with the expectations of our local government partner. Through this process, more precise details regarding the changes to service will be communicated to you, and ultimately to the public in your community.

As we go forward, we are continuing to monitor ridership growth and the associated demand for service expansions and working closely with the Province to establish future funding needs. In the meantime, we remain committed to making transit your best transportation solution and we greatly appreciate your support in delivering safe, reliable and efficient public transit services across the province.

Regards,



Seth Wright
Senior Government Relations Manager