



July 16, 2025

Kate Segall, Chair
Cowichan Valley Regional District

Reference: 334459
Your File 8500-40

Cliff McNeil-Smith, Chair
Capital Regional District

Vanessa Craig, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo

Ryan Windsor, Chair
Victoria Regional Transit Commission

c/o Cowichan Valley Regional District
175 Ingram Street
Duncan BC V9L 1N8

Dear Chair Segall, Chair McNeil-Smith, Chair Craig and Chair Windsor:

Re: Regional Transit Services

Thank you for your letter of June 13, 2025, sharing your support for Better Island Transit's proposal for enhanced regional transit services on South Vancouver Island.

Our government knows that many British Columbians want improved access to convenient and affordable transit services for their travel needs. [Budget 2025](#) provides over \$1.1 billion in provincial operating and capital funding to BC Transit over the next three years to support transit service delivery and expansion in communities across B.C.

The development of inter-regional service relies on strong support from multiple local government partners, funding from local governments, and considerable planning. BC Transit prioritizes service expansion requests using a standard evaluation process which considers a variety of factors such as fleet availability, ridership, critical operations factors, local government funding commitments and provincial funding to support transit service expansion.

BC Transit supports a phased approach to service improvements that align with ridership trends and available resources. As an example, Sunday service with three round trips is being introduced on the Cowichan Valley Express between Duncan and Victoria starting in September 2025.

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I understand that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, Cowichan Valley Regional District, and Regional District of Nanaimo have all identified inter-regional transit service as important but that they have emphasized that local service expansion remains their top priority. BC Transit will continue to work with local government partners to explore more efficient service designs, including the model proposed by Better Island Transit.

The ministry will continue to support the delivery of safe, reliable and accessible transit services within and between communities.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Mike Farnworth
Minister

Copy to: Erinn Pinkerton, President and CEO
 BC Transit