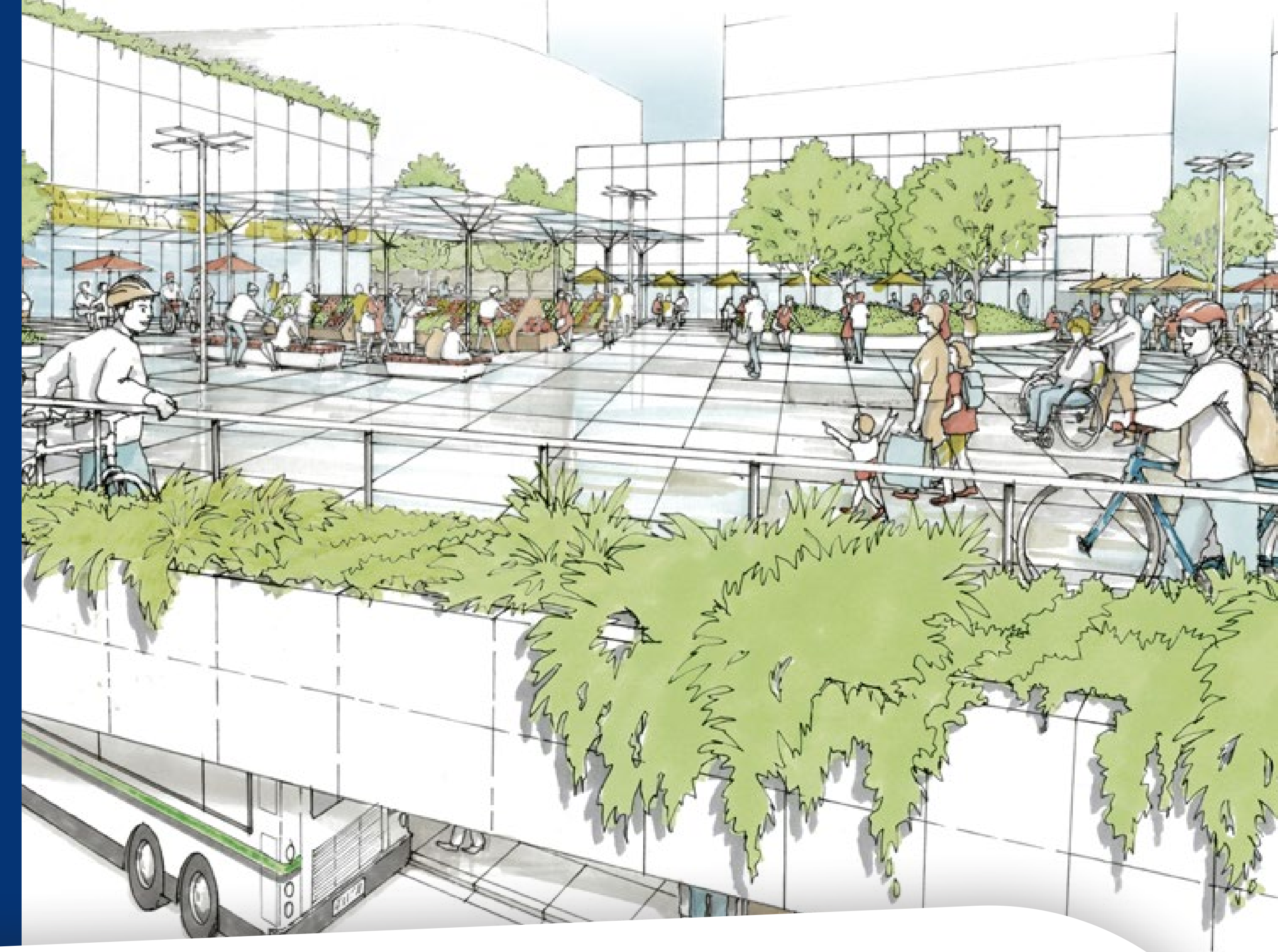




StrongerBC
for everyone

Welcome to the Uptown TOD Open House



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is seeking early input to inform the design and planning of the Uptown Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).

We want to hear from you!

We invite you to complete our online survey as you move through the boards:



You can also:



Provide input directly on the display boards



Complete a hard-copy comment form and leave it with a member of the team



Email your input to tod@gov.bc.ca

How input will be used

The input you provide will be considered as we determine key development features, including:

- Types of housing to be included within the development
- Community services and amenities to be located within the development
- Active transportation amenities (e.g., for cycling, scootering, walking)

The Uptown TOD is located within the Traditional Territories of the Lekwungen Nations of Esquimalt and Songhees, as well as the WSA NEC Nations of Tsawout First Nation, Tsartlip First Nation, Tseycum First Nation, and Pauquachin First Nation.

Please provide your input by September 18, 2024.

gov.bc.ca/uptowntod

What is Transit-Oriented Development?

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is an approach to land use planning that locates high-density, mixed-use development within walking distance from frequent transit services.

It promotes the creation of complete, liveable, and sustainable communities by building more homes near transit and services.

TOD typically incorporates a variety of land uses, such as:



Transit and active transportation options



Residential



Restaurants and cafes



Retail stores



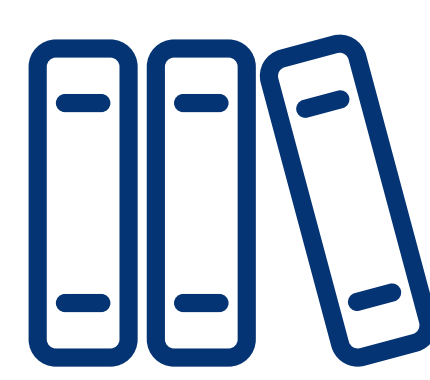
Education



Childcare



Health and wellness



Libraries



Community spaces

Example of a Transit-Oriented Development with a mix of land uses and transit exchange.
Image by Robert Stefanowicz for DIALOG.



About the Uptown TOD

The Uptown TOD will be located at a key junction for Greater Victoria.

December 2023—new provincial legislation was introduced, requiring some municipalities to designate Transit-Oriented Development Areas near transit hubs. This includes the area within a 400-metre radius of the Uptown Exchange.

April 2024—the Province announced the acquisition of two parcels of land to support a future TOD at Uptown with hundreds of new homes, community amenities and a transit exchange.

Planning for this development is in the early conceptual stages. We are working with partners, including BC Transit, the Capital Regional District, and the District of Saanich, to design the development.



Why are we developing the Uptown TOD?

The population in Greater Victoria is growing quickly. From 2016-2023, it increased by more than 50,000 people (more than 13%)*.

This development will help address the region's housing shortage and create an efficient, integrated and complete community where people can easily access the daily necessities of life and rely on public transit to connect them to their work and social lives.

When developed, the Uptown TOD will provide hundreds of new homes and a transit exchange with connections for active transportation—walking, cycling and rolling.

A transit exchange at Uptown will be a cornerstone in the Greater Victoria Transit network, with connections to major job centres in the region.



*Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0152-01 Population estimates, July 1, by census division, 2021 boundaries

Uptown–Douglas Plan

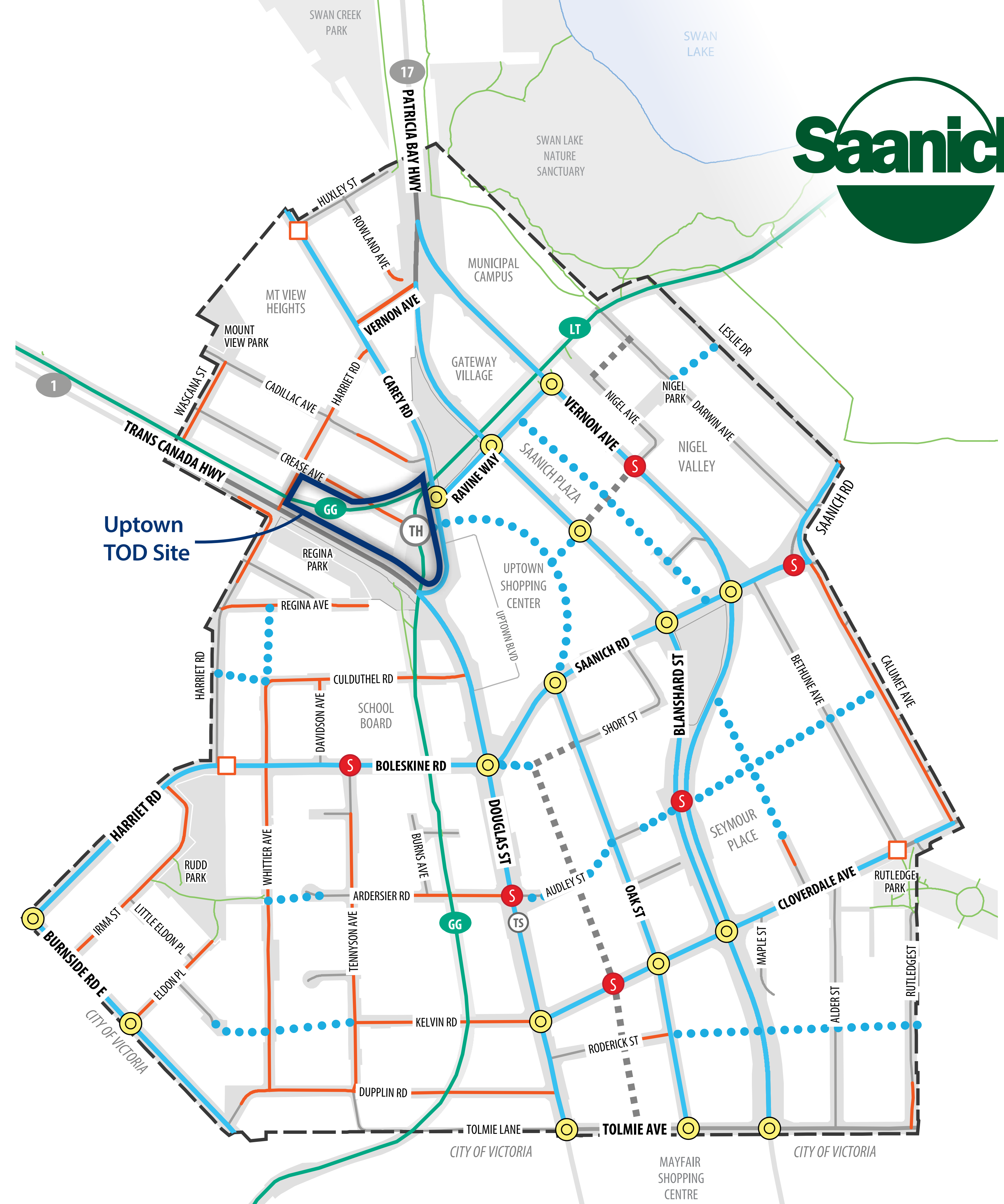
The Uptown TOD plans to align with the vision, values and objectives of the Uptown–Douglas Plan, the District of Saanich's long-term plan for the Uptown–Douglas neighbourhood.

The District of Saanich aims to support the creation of a landmark transit exchange that:

- Enhances the role and identity of the Uptown–Douglas area as a regional hub and focal point
- Is a prominent visual landmark including attractive features and gathering spaces
- Creates a seamless and inviting experience for people using all transportation modes
- Maintains the "all ages and abilities" quality of the regional trail network
- Accommodates potential future conversion to light rail
- Incorporates a range of uses and community facilities



Learn more about the Uptown–Douglas Plan on the District of Saanich website



Proposed Pedestrian Network, Uptown–Douglas Plan

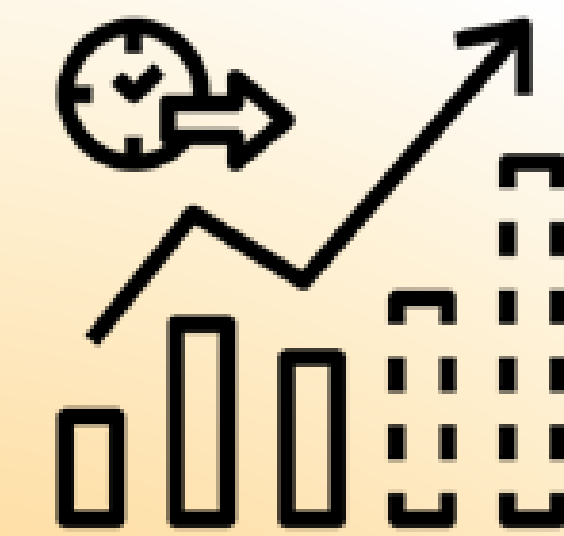


Values

The Uptown TOD will be designed with these key values in mind:

Sustainability

Align with provincial environmental priorities: promote active and public transportation use, design energy efficient buildings, and create a complete community that meets all resident needs (live, work, and play).

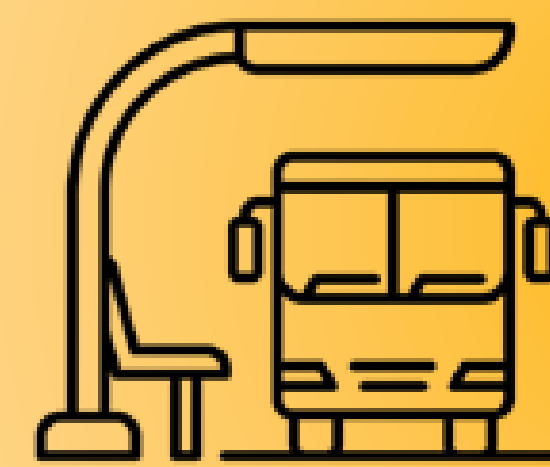


Operational Resilience

Phase the site over time and future-proof the transit exchange to accommodate for increased service over time as demand grows.

Attractive & Intuitive

Create a new regional hub in Saanich: a destination with attractive urban design that will serve as a landmark and meeting place connecting the region.



Transit First Approach

&



High Density Complete Community

Community & Inclusion

Something for everyone: ensure a range of uses, amenities, and public spaces for all ages and abilities. Broad consultation to ensure the development reflects the diversity of Saanich.



Economic Vibrancy

Create diverse employment spaces and bring more businesses to Saanich to serve local residents.



Health & Wellbeing

Improve the user experience for all trail users: prioritizing safety and convenience and offering desired amenities.

Services and amenities

Artist impression of how the Uptown TOD central plaza above the transit exchange could look.



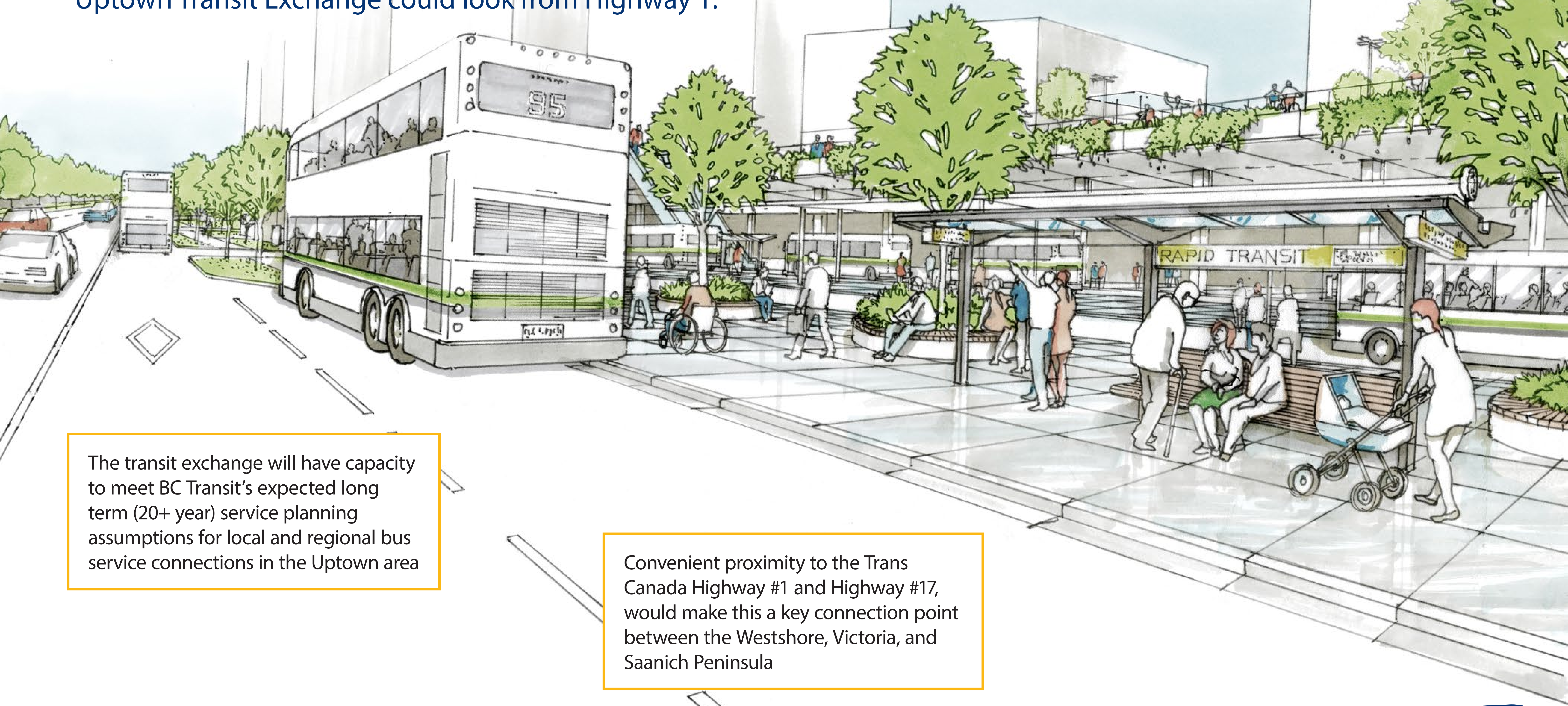
Opportunity to co-locate community services such as child care, community health facilities and educational services.

A future-ready transit exchange located below public spaces would enable future expansion of the rapid transit network.

Transit connections

Artist impression of how a Bus Rapid Transit stop and Uptown Transit Exchange could look from Highway 1.

BC Transit launched the Blink 95 RapidBus in April 2023, which currently has designated stops on Highway 1 near the Uptown Exchange



The transit exchange will have capacity to meet BC Transit's expected long term (20+ year) service planning assumptions for local and regional bus service connections in the Uptown area

Convenient proximity to the Trans Canada Highway #1 and Highway #17, would make this a key connection point between the Westshore, Victoria, and Saanich Peninsula

Illustrations are concept drawings and subject to change following design development.

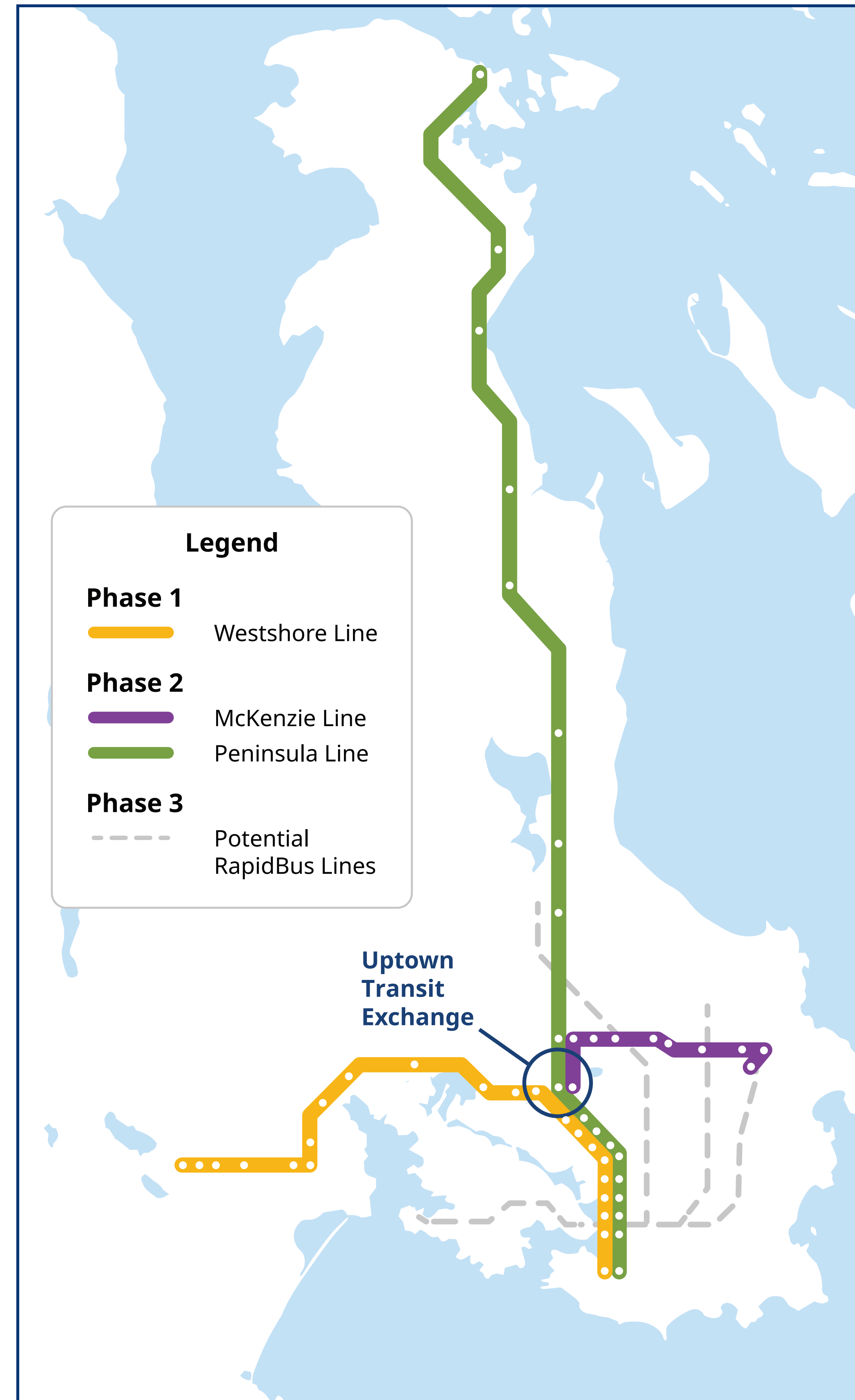
Uptown Transit Exchange

Uptown will serve as a key transit exchange and transfer point between the broader transit network and three planned RapidBus Lines.

These RapidBus Lines include:

- West Shore RapidBus Line (95 BLINK Langford/Downtown)
- McKenzie RapidBus Line (96 BLINK Uptown/UVIC)
- Peninsula RapidBus Line

The development of the future Uptown Transit Exchange will improve transit connections in the Uptown area and support further transit service investments within the Victoria Region, phased over time.



Phase 1 - Complete

The West Shore RapidBus Line (95 BLINK Langford/Downtown) was officially launched in April 2023. Transit priority investments continue on Highway 1, Douglas Street, and the Island Highway to support additional travel time and service reliability improvements.

Phase 2 - Ongoing

Planning for the launch of the McKenzie RapidBus Line (96 BLINK Uptown/UVIC) is currently underway as part of the Tillicum-McKenzie Corridor Transit Plan.

Infrastructure investments continue to be planned for all three RapidBus alignments, including the West Shore, McKenzie, and Peninsula RapidBus Lines.

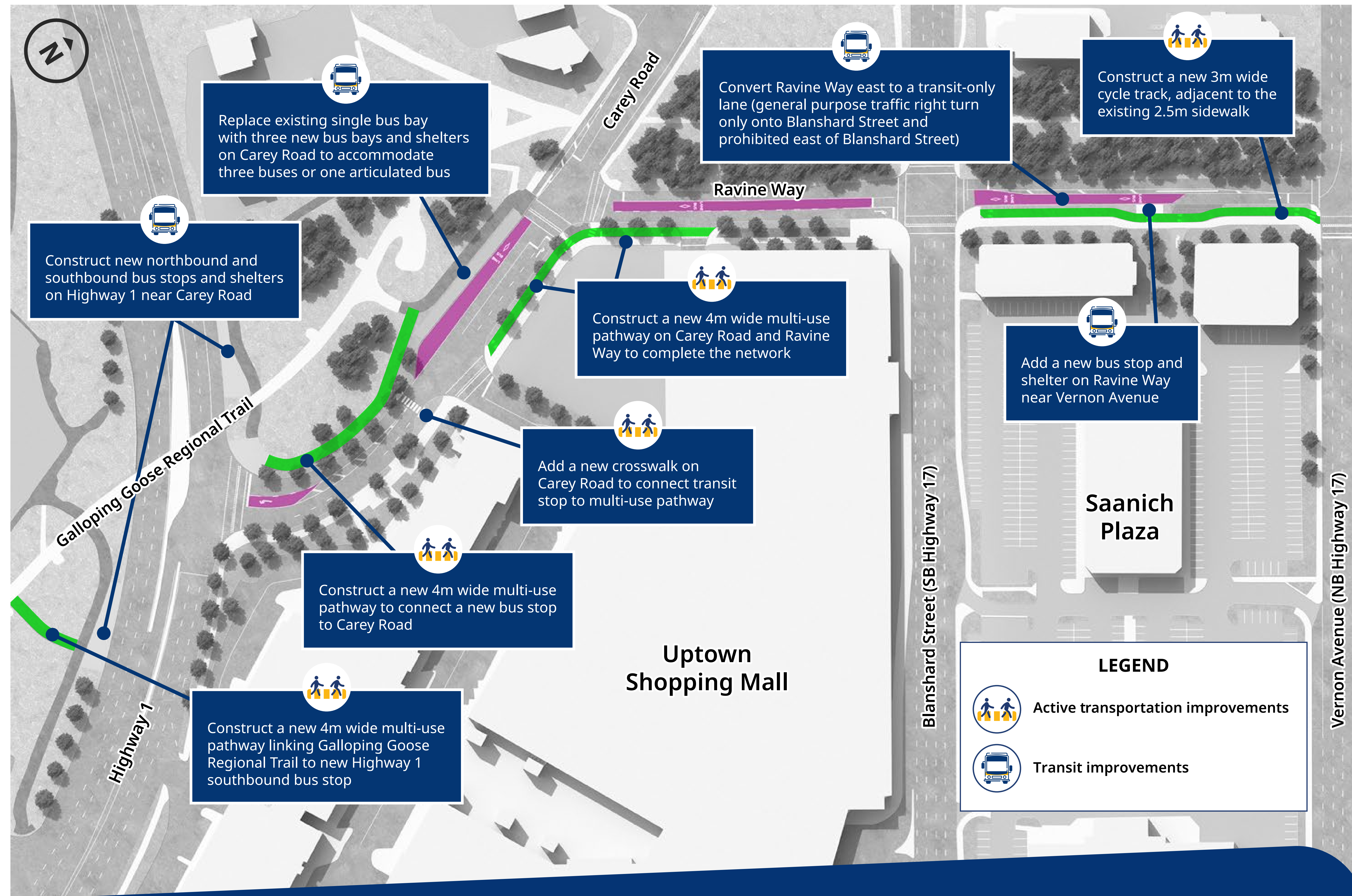
Learn more about the Tillicum-McKenzie Corridor Transit Plan

Highway 17/Ravine Way Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure Improvements

The Province is improving the experience of existing trail and transit users near the Uptown area where possible, in advance of full site development.



Learn more on the Project webpage



Active transportation connections

Artist impression of how the Galloping Goose and Lochside Regional Trails could connect at the Uptown TOD.

Active transportation means using your own power to get from one place to another and includes:

- Walking/running
- Skateboarding/scootering
- Cycling
- Assisted mobility devices, such as wheelchairs

Temporary trails will be provided to keep people moving throughout construction

Trail connections will be designed to separate active transportation modes to ensure the safety of everyone while maintaining efficiency for active transportation users through the site

Regional Trestles Renewal, Trails Widening and Lighting Project

Through this project, the Capital Regional District (CRD) plans to widen and light sections of the Galloping Goose and Lochside regional trails with a 6.5m separated use pathway design and renew three trestles within the project area.

Project objectives:

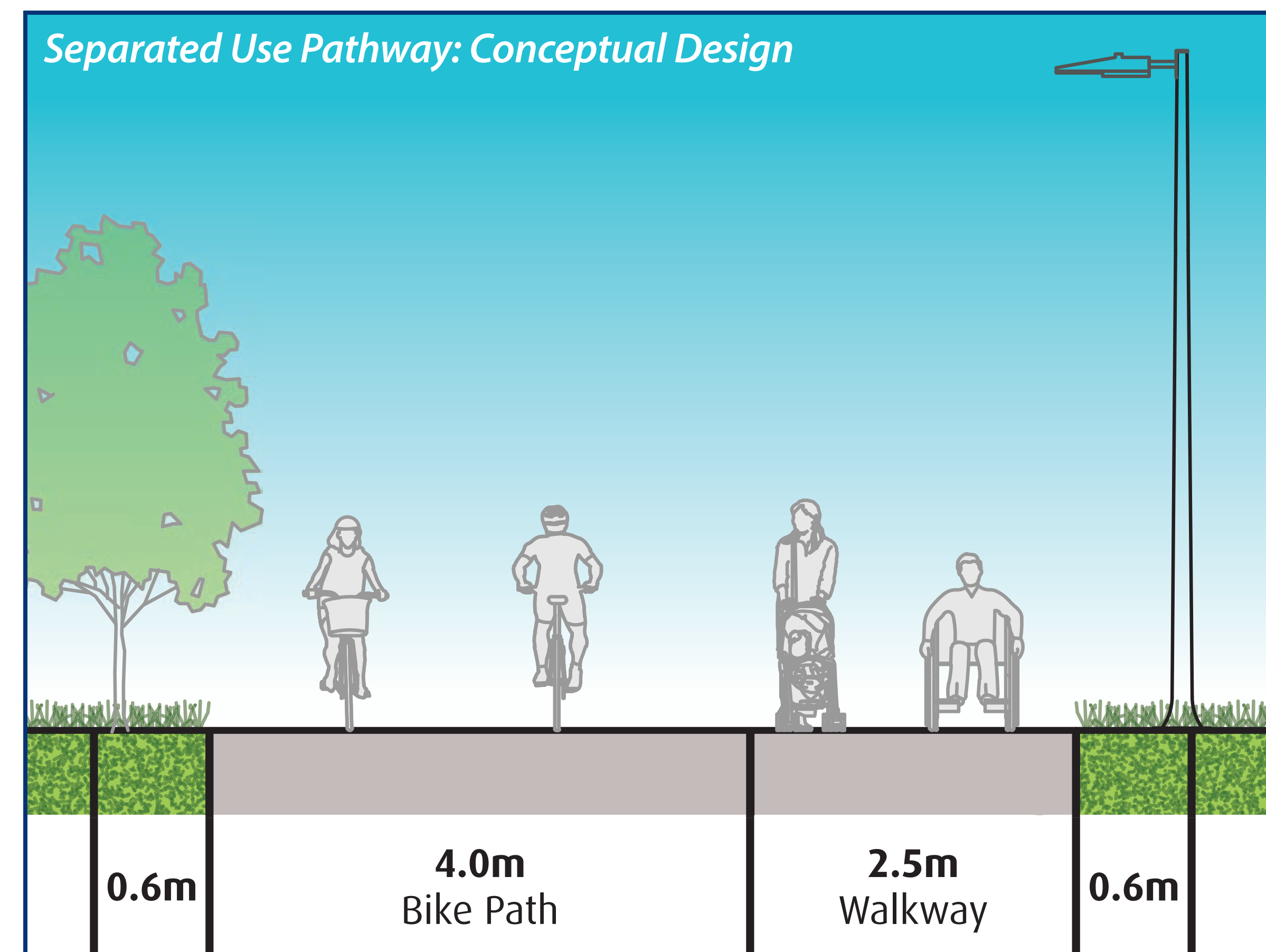
Create safer, more comfortable conditions for all trail users

Accommodate an increase in use over the next 20 years

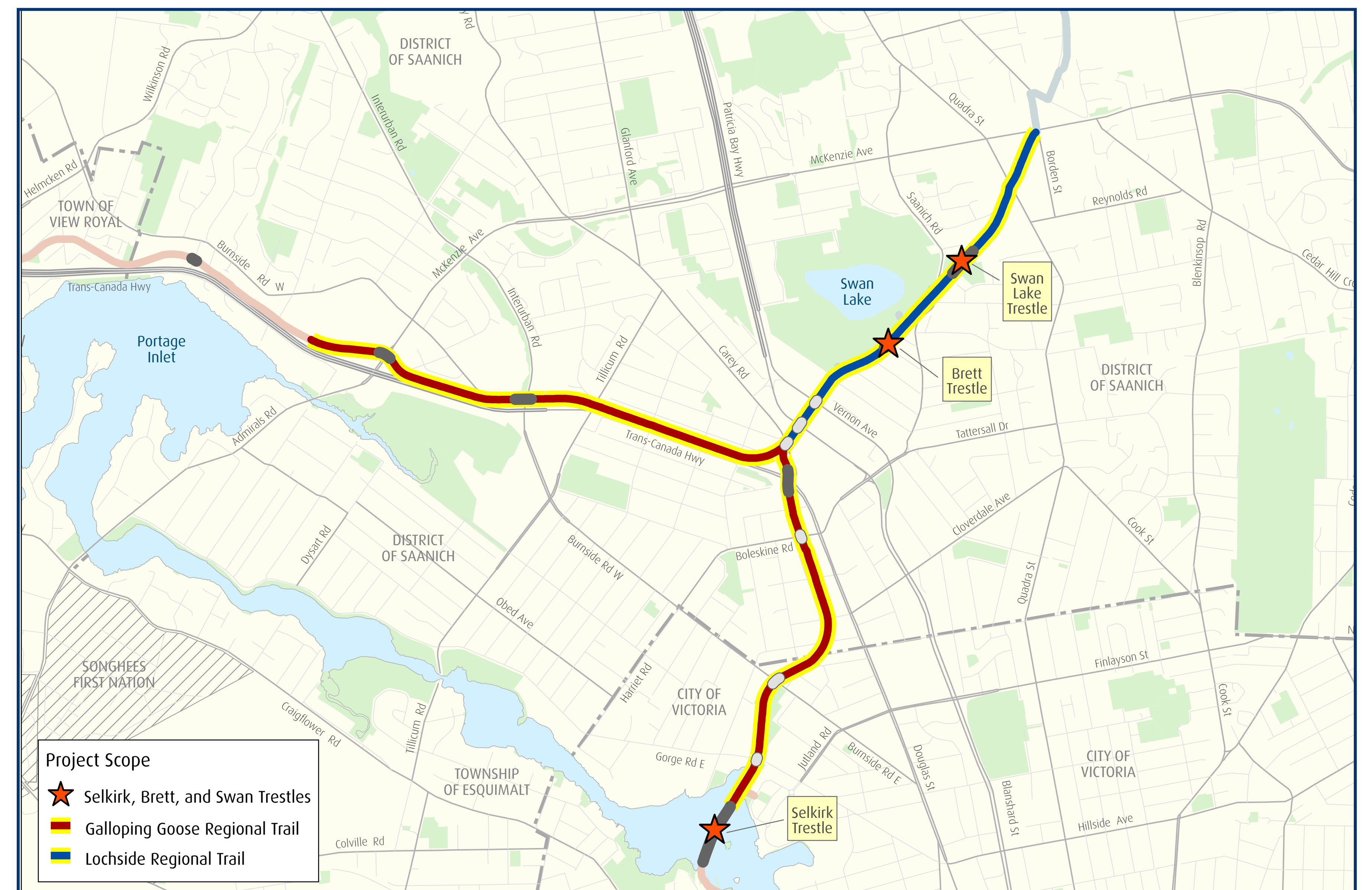
Help the region meet its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting active transportation

Improve safety and visibility by lighting key locations such as underpasses

Renew three trestles nearing end of serviceable life



Learn more on the CRD website:



Trestle and trail upgrades will be made over time with consideration being given to other planned public works, such as MoTI's Uptown TOD, and with the busiest sections of trail being given priority.

A sustainable and resilient development

When designing the Uptown TOD, we will consider potential opportunities to enhance the natural environment on the site, such as:

- High quality building performance to reduce carbon emissions
- Passive shading design to minimize heat island effects
- Creation of onsite natural areas such as daylighting creeks to store rainwater and help reduce heat island effects



Engagement

The team will continue to work with partners, including BC Transit, Capital Regional District, and District of Saanich to inform scope and design criteria.

Stakeholder engagement

We met with local groups including active transportation organizations, residents' associations, business owners, and under-represented populations to ensure their experiences and input are considered as we design the development.

Indigenous engagement


The Province is committed to meeting its consultation obligations with First Nations communities affected by this development. We intend to continue working with First Nations communities as the development progresses.




We want to hear from you

Thank you for attending this public open house!
Please provide your input by September 18, 2024.

Your input will help inform planning and design.

✓ Complete the online questionnaire 

✓ Send us an email at tod@gov.bc.ca 

✓ Visit us online at gov.bc.ca/uptowntod 

Next steps

Following this early public engagement, the team will review input and prepare an engagement summary report on the input received.

