

Regional District of Central Okanagan - Electoral Area Services Committee

# BC Transit Update

January 30, 2025

Bart Walman, Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit



## Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with respect that BC Transit delivers our mission on the ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples across British Columbia, and their historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

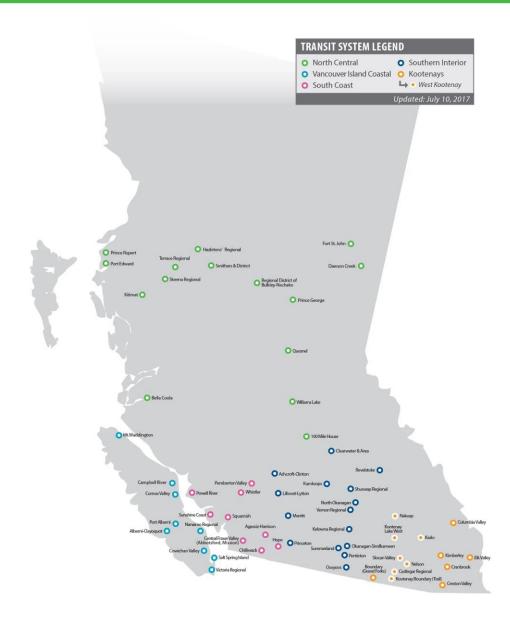


## **BC Transit Overview**

- Provincial authority responsible for the planning, funding and operation of all transit throughout the Province outside of Metro Vancouver
  - 51+ million passenger trips
  - 1,013 buses in a range of sizes
  - \$321 million operating & capital budget
  - 1.5 million British Columbians served
  - 130 Communities, 81 transit systems

## **Partnerships**

- 59 local government partners
- 18 private management companies, 5 public organizations, 14 non-profits



## **Transit Services**

#### **Conventional Transit**

- Fixed routes & schedules
- Mainly urban settings

#### Custom Transit (handyDART)

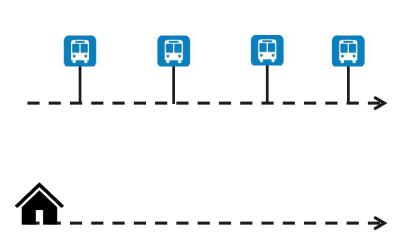
- Door to door
- Demand responsive
- For those who cannot access conventional
- Links to taxi programs

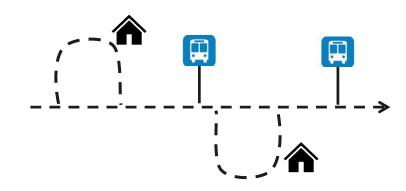
#### Paratransit & OnDemand

- Flexible routing and schedules
- Light duty accessible vehicles
- Small towns, rural communities, low ridership

#### Health Connections

- Paratransit service funded by Health Authority
- Provides access to medical appointments
- Small towns, and rural communities

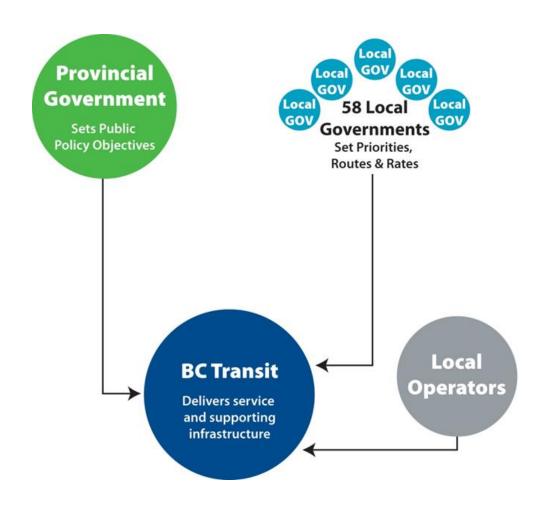






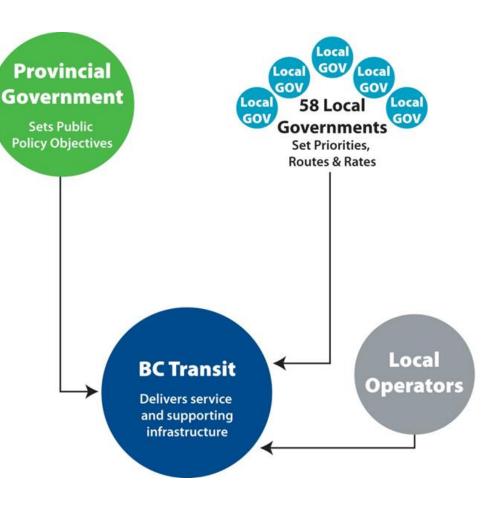
### BC Transit

- Allocates provincial funding
- Professional services required to plan, finance and implement transit systems
- Plans transit systems to achieve local and provincial objectives
- Facilitate the operation of transit systems by contract or partnership
- Procures & owns fleet Determines the fleet & facilities requirements
- Marketing (Rider's Guides) /



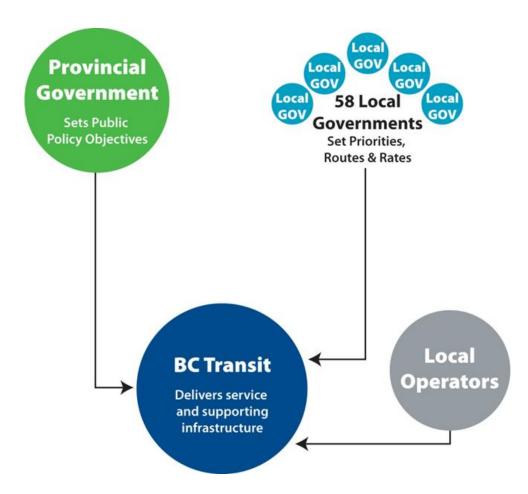
## Local Government

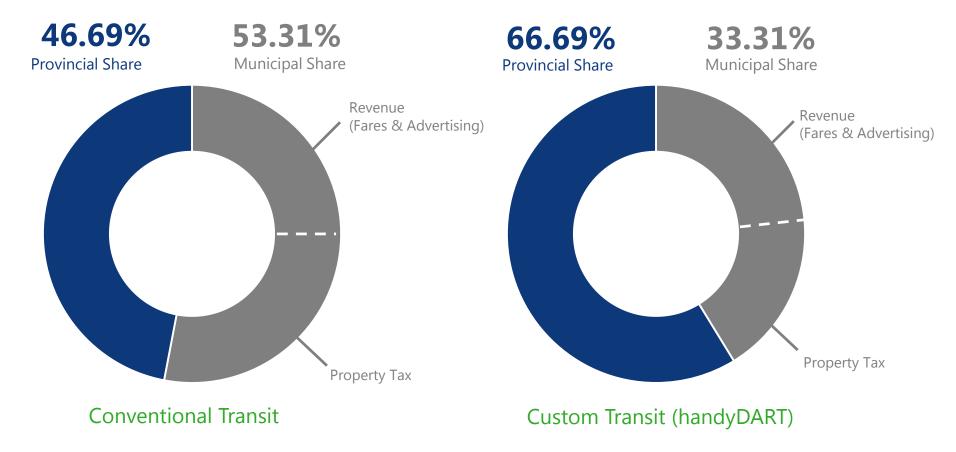
- Sets local funding
- Sets routes and service levels with BC Transit
- Determines service expansion priorities
- Sets **fares** and manages the sale of fare products
- Establishes and maintains bus stops, shelters and amenities
- Carries out land use planning through Official Community Plan, Transit vision and expectations, and transit supportive policies
- Approves transit related agreements



## Operating Company

- Delivers specified transit services as directed by BC Transit
- Hires, trains and provides drivers
- Manages labour relations
- Collects fare revenue on behalf of the Local Government
- Provides day to day customer service (info line, lost & found inquiries, etc.)
- Assists with data collection
- Helps promote transit





Note: Local Government retains 100% of revenue to offset local costs

Kelowna Regional Transit Syster

- 6 Local Government Partners
  - City of Kelowna
  - City of West Kelowna
  - District of Lake Country
  - Westbank First Nation
  - District of Peachland
  - Regional District of Central Okanagan
- Operated by TransDev Canada
- Fleet:
  - 75 conventional buses
  - 12 community buses
  - 23 custom transit buses



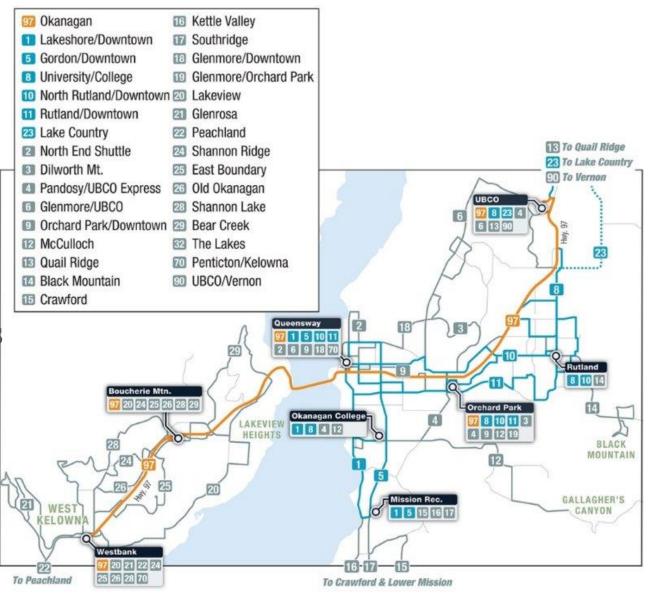
# Kelowna Regional Tran

• 32 Routes

• 186,000 service hours

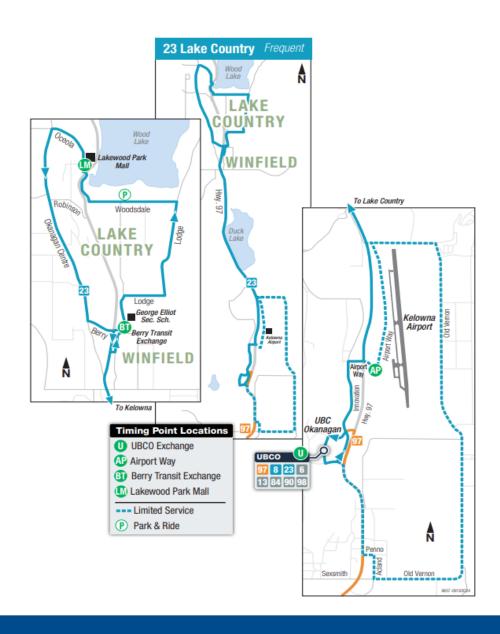
• 6.4 million annual rides

• 10% ridership increase



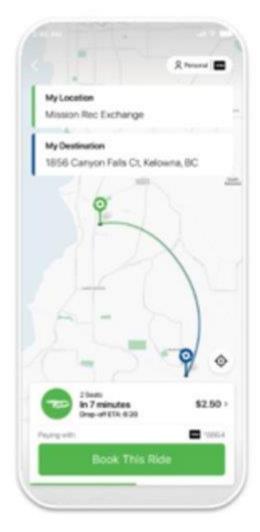
## Kelowna Transit Governance

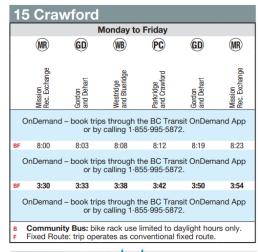
- Local Cost Sharing determined by the total percentage of service hours delivered in each jurisdiction
  - **RDCO Cost Share:** 4% of Route 23 "Lake Country" (0.19% of total service)
  - **Operating Expenses (2024/25):** \$32,00
- Local Revenue Sharing split by ridership (75%) and service hours (25%)
  - Annual hours: 360
  - Annual ridership ~1 000



# Kelowna On-Demand Project

- New service which uses technology to dynamically dispatch a bus to locations dictated by customers
- Launched for April 28 in Kelowna's Crawford neighborhood
- Potential expansion location options being discussed
- Opportunity to include as part of expansion discussions in 2025 for consideration in 2026

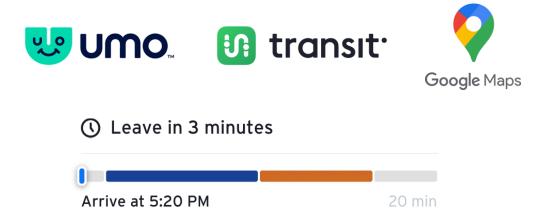


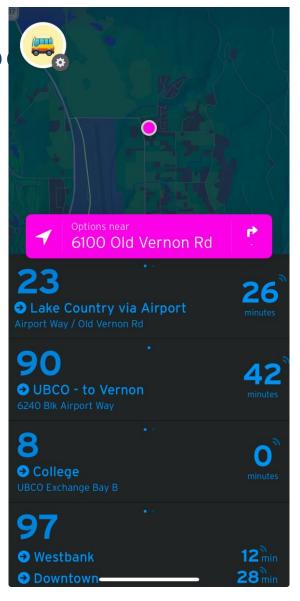




## NextRide - Real Time Vehicle Lo

- NextRide uses automatic vehicle location technology to allow customers to see real time bus locations and anticipated arrival times
- Visual displays and audio announcements provide information for the visual and hearing impaired





. 12

# **Guiding Priorities for Future Planning**

What information is BC Transit and local staff considering when making future transit planning recommendations?

- Current Demographic Data
- Ridership Statistics
- Operational and Service Performance Data
- Public, Transit-User, and Operator-Specific Feedback
- Industry-wide Principles and Best Practices
- Municipal and Local Area Plans and Policies

Transit Future Action Plan







# Approaching & Prioritizing Service Improvements

Outstanding Transit Future Planning Priorities

What changes identified in the most recent Transit Future Action Plan or past TIPS requests have not been addressed?

Performance Data Response

Are any routes reaching capacity thresholds? Any additional critical fixes needed?

**Operational Needs and Critical Fixes** 

Are existing routes reliable and consistent? Outstanding on-time performance issues?

\*Note that the Province is prioritizing support in this area for expansion funding.





Bart Walman
Manager, Government Relations
cell 672-974-2718 | bwalman@bctransit.com