

January 15, 2018

**RE: Douglas Street Bus and Bike Priority Lanes Construction:
Southbound Tolmie Avenue to Hillside Avenue**

Hello,

BC Transit, the Province of BC, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and the City of Victoria will begin construction in late January to extend the bus and bike priority lane southbound along Douglas Street from Tolmie Avenue to Hillside Avenue.

The first bus and bike priority lanes were implemented in Victoria on Douglas Street in 2014. Priority lanes will be also be expanded northbound on Douglas Street from Tolmie Avenue to Mackenzie Avenue, with funding from Government of Canada and Province of BC, in the coming years.

The priority lanes are designed to shorten travel times for transit passengers, increase the reliability of public transit, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by limiting idling. Encouraging more transit use can also lower the number of vehicles on the road. The Douglas Street corridor currently carries up to 1,700 vehicles per hour during peak travel times.

The work will include:

- Concrete road and asphalt paving
- Sidewalk and boulevard restoration and improvements
- New line painting
- New signal infrastructure

In addition, 26 boulevard trees will be removed and replaced as discussed during the public consultation for the project. Removal of any tree is always a last resort and with each removal at least one replacement tree is to be planted, with consideration for the species that will have the best chance for success given a particular location.

Construction is estimated to be completed within nine months. During construction, local access will be maintained, rotating parking restrictions will be put into effect, and there will be periodic lane closures. The construction zone and all traffic changes will be marked with signs.

For information on the current expansion of the bus and bike priority lanes, including the public consultation process for this project, please visit the BC Transit Victoria Bus Lane Douglas Street and Highway 1 webpage on BCTransit.com.

We will work hard to keep you informed as construction progresses. If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this project please do not hesitate to contact Keith Kresse with the City of Victoria, or Levi Timmermans from BC Transit.

Regards,

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