

DATE: August 1, 2023

TO: Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members

FROM: Taylor Eidt, Planning Project Manager, C-TRAN

RE: **Highway 99 Bus Rapid Transit Project**

Introduction

The Clark County Public Transit Benefit Area Authority (C-TRAN) is proposing to implement bus rapid transit (BRT) in an approximately 10-mile corridor between downtown Vancouver and the Washington State University Vancouver (WSUV) campus primarily along Main Street in the City of Vancouver and Highway 99 through Clark County. The project includes 33 new and 4 existing stations, BRT-style branded vehicles, level boarding stations, improved station amenities, pedestrian and bicycle access to stations, off-board fare payment, enhanced safety and security at stations, and geometric transit priority treatments, and transit signal priority. The Project as proposed is expected to operate primarily in mixed traffic. Opportunities to enhance performance and reliability with transit priority include a dedicated bus entry and egress at WSUV, queue jumps at select stations, and may include treatments at other locations pending additional design refinement.

C-TRAN is pursuing the project to address several existing transportation deficiencies and future corridor opportunities. Highway 99 is C-TRAN's third-busiest corridor, a major north-south connection in Vancouver and Clark County. This corridor is a critical component for increasing transit capacity. Between 2015 and 2040, the Highway 99 corridor is forecasted to add over 7,000 new households (an increase of approximately 47%) and over 9,000 new jobs (an increase of approximately 34%). C-TRAN expects the Project will: 1) improve travel time and reliability in the corridor by reducing delay caused by traffic congestion; 2) improve mobility for residents who do not have access to a car or are experiencing poverty; and 3) enhance transit safety and access by improving lighting and security at stations and increasing the overall attractiveness of transit. The corridor includes several major employment areas and key activity centers such as downtown Vancouver, PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center, Salmon Creek Park & Ride, Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center, and Washington State University Vancouver.

Since a previous update to the Transportation and Mobility Commission in March 2023, the Project has made significant progress. In March 2023, the C-TRAN Board of Directors adopted a Locally Preferred Alternative design option, and the Project moved into Phase 2, Design and Engineering.

Overview/Preview

The Highway 99 BRT Project has reached the 15% design milestone, identifying draft preliminary station locations.

Highway 99 Bus Rapid Transit Project

August 1, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Action, Timeline, Next Steps

The C-TRAN project team is providing an update on progress of the Highway 99 BRT Project for the purpose of informing relevant stakeholders, gathering feedback, and identifying project design needs, constraints, and opportunities. Ultimately, the project will be a core component of the C-TRAN and City of Vancouver transportation systems, supporting mobility regionwide through this investment. C-TRAN will continue to refine design through 30%, 60%, 90%, and completion of final design in early 2025 before construction, with an anticipated opening in 2027.

Contact Information

Taylor Eidt, Planning Project Manager, C-TRAN

Taylor.Eidt@c-tran.org, 360-906-7331

Attachment(s):

TMC Presentation