

Memorandum

DATE: August 11, 2025
TO: City of Victoria / Victoria MPO
CC:
FROM: ATG|DCCM
RE: Plans Review

Executive Summary

On behalf of the Victoria MPO, Alliance Transportation Group, LLC (ATG) conducted a plan review to better understand the existing conditions for the Victoria MPO planning area in support of the development of the Victoria Transit Plan. Current plans and reports that have an impact on regional and local transit operations and projects were gathered and reviewed, including those led by the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC), which operates the Victoria Transit program. This review provides a consistent foundation to understand the region's present and future transit investment goals and actions to ensure alignment with regional planning efforts and ongoing state and local planning activities.

Across all plans, several consistent themes emerged regarding transportation needs, economic development, multimodal connectivity, and cost-effective solutions. Multiple plans call for investments in vehicle replacements, new bus shelters, better fare collection, and improved service in higher need areas – emphasizing the widespread acknowledgement that transit investments are needed in the area. Additionally, multimodal transportation and economic development are intertwined with transit improvements, as stressed by multiple plans. However, fiscal constraints on material costs as well as limited funding require Victoria Transit to perform phased, cost-conscious infrastructure strategies alongside low-cost programmatic solutions. The reviewed plans reinforce the need for a transit strategy that is coordinated, fiscally responsible, and integrated into local land use and multimodal networks.

Plan Review Summary Table

Plan	Agency	Year	Applicability to Victoria Transit Study
The Move Victoria 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)	Victoria MPO, Victoria MPO Temporary Technical Advisory Committee, Victoria MPO Policy Advisory Committee, TxDOT	2025	Provides a long-range guide to improving public transit and integrating it with broader multimodal transportation goals in the region, population growth in the city, and overall land use planning.
2025 - 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Victoria MPO, City of Victoria, Victoria County, Victoria Transit, TxDOT	2025	Identifies federally funded transit-related projects such as vehicle replacements and operational support.
2023 Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP)	Victoria MPO, City of Victoria	2023	Identifies pedestrian and bicycle connections in proximity to transit stops, enhancing first-mile/last-mile access.
2021 Thoroughfare Master Plan	Victoria MPO, City of Victoria	2021	Recommends complete streets that can support safe and efficient transportation access.
Community Center and Fairgrounds Master Plan	City of Victoria	2024	Identifies infrastructure and pedestrian access improvements around a potential destination hub.
Library Master Plan	City of Victoria	2022	Recommends improved pedestrian access points and street connectivity around library facilities.
City of Victoria Downtown Master Plan	City of Victoria	2021	Proposes improvements to transit stops and amenities that could increase ridership to and from downtown.
City of Victoria Parks and Recreation Master Plan	City of Victoria	2021	Highlights opportunities to improve transit access to parks such as MLK Park.
Community Development Block Grant's Analysis of Impediments	City of Victoria	2020	Identifies transit service gaps and accessibility issues for low-income and underserved populations.

Plan	Agency	Year	Applicability to Victoria Transit Study
2016 City of Victoria's Plan 2035 Comprehensive Plan	City of Victoria	2016	Highlights community feedback on transit strengths and weaknesses for the City of Victoria – providing insight on public expectations of needed transit improvements.
GCRPC Limited English Proficiency Plan (GCRPC LEP Plan)	GCRPC	2022	Ensures transit planning and operations are inclusive for non-English speakers, supporting Title VI compliance and equitable access to regional transit services.
GCRPC Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan, 2022-2026	GCRPC	2022	Outlines regional transit needs and community feedback on service priorities like affordability and transit stop amenities.
Local Historical Unit Cost for Transit Stops	GCRPC	2021	Provides cost benchmarks for transit infrastructure such as bus stops.
The Golden Crescent – Directions for the Future Plan	GCRPC	2024	Presents actionable transit service and infrastructure recommendations aimed at improving regional transportation efficiency, coverage, and public awareness.

Plan Review

Victoria MPO

The Move Victoria 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Adopted in 2025, the Move Victoria 2050 MTP provides a blueprint for future investment in the transportation system across all modes of transportation in the Victoria Metropolitan Area. The plan highlights ongoing efforts to optimize transit service, expand accessibility, and plan for future efforts as projected growth in the area increases potential demand. Potential enhancements such as increasing local funding, expanding routes to improve accessibility, and integrating active transportation in central Victoria are all potential strategies listed in the plan. For transit in particular, it is recommended that future routes be centered around areas of higher population and employment density. While other transportation options are listed in the plan, the final plan establishes a framework to move the Victoria MPO toward a series of transportation-related goals, including the following:

1. Safety and security for users of the transportation network.
2. Preserve and maintain the existing transportation infrastructure.
3. Reduce congestion and improve efficiency on roadways.
4. Support land use goals.
5. Invest in walking and cycling facilities.
6. Support economic development.
7. Improve environmental sustainability and resilience to hazards.
8. Improve public transportation.
9. Make equitable investments.

2025 - 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Updated every 2 years, the TIP provides a guide to the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Texas Department of Transportation, and local officials to coordinate planning projects within the available funding levels. Projects from the updated TIP include \$630,392,000 in funding projects for freeway operational improvements, widening non-freeways, and creating a railroad grade separation. As it relates to transit, the TIP lists several transit-related projects by Victoria Transit that have had funds allocated to them such as vehicle replacements, preventive maintenance, and operational assistance.

2023 Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP)

Approved in November 2023, the Victoria Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) outlines the community's priorities for non-motorized transportation and recreation. This plan provides a shared vision for a potential network that, when implemented, will provide residents with the chance to bike and walk between neighborhoods and access existing greenway trails throughout

the city. These recommendations were planned and designed to be near public transit routes, safe routes to school, and walk and bike facilities within ¼ mile from the Victoria Transit service area.

2021 Thoroughfare Master Plan

In 2021, the Victoria City Council approved the City of Victoria's Thoroughfare Master Plan (TMP). The long-range planning document serves as a roadmap for the growth of the local transportation system. The TMP's goal is to ensure that Victoria's transportation system can accommodate all forms of surface transportation to fulfill the expanding region's current and future needs.

This plan recommends several infrastructure and policy modifications to meet the needs of Victoria's future transportation system. The strategy also highlights the significance of context-sensitive solutions that consider a range of issues affecting multimodal mobility, accessibility, and quality of life, rather than concentrating only on optimizing personal vehicle travel. This approach does consider transit services and the relief in pressure those services place on impacted thoroughfares. Complete street approaches are also recommended for relevant thoroughfares that feature transit routes and stops. While the plan makes no direct recommendation for improving transit in the Victoria MPO, it does take into consideration that transit services impact traffic and the level of service thoroughfares can accommodate.

City of Victoria

Community Center and Fairgrounds Master Plan

The City of Victoria Community Center and Fairgrounds Master Plan was adopted in September 2024 and reimagines the Victoria Community Center as a destination hub. Aimed at attracting more events and supporting economic development in the area, the plan examines existing facilities and their usage by residents and visitors. While not directly related to transit, the plan highlights and recommends improvements to wayfinding and the pedestrian experience in the area surrounding the community center and fairgrounds.

Library Master Plan

The City of Victoria's Library Master Plan was adopted in 2023 and serves as a road map to better serve the larger community, improve conditions at the library level, and coordinate with the City's downtown master plan. While the plan primarily focused on improvements to the library system and renovations to needed buildings, it did highlight a need for street improvements and the creation of accessible walkways for all users.

City of Victoria Downtown Master Plan

Adopted in October 2021, the Downtown Master Plan acts as a guide and strategy on future development in downtown Victoria and how the district can become an economic driver for the larger community. The stated goal for the plan is to make downtown Victoria a recreational destination that everyone can access safely. To do this, the document lays out an action plan that covers the built environment, operation and programming actions, policies and regulations, and economic development strategies. The plan does recognize Victoria Transit's presence downtown

and how it serves as a key entity impacted by this plan. In particular, the plan sets out to make improvements to downtown bus stops that also serve as public art installation to enhance user comfort and safety.

City of Victoria Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Adopted in September 2021, the City of Victoria Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a framework to improve the city's park system. In particular, the plan lists several recommendations relevant to community preferences, park distribution and access, facility conditions, recreational programming, and the efficient delivery of services. These recommendations range from establishing a ½ mile walkshed target for all neighborhood parks to extending trail networks to specified parks that better meet community needs. As it relates to transit, MLK Park is the only one listed with potential transit-related renovations. Bus stop improvements at MLK Park would make the park more accessible for the community and, as such, is a listed priority in this plan.

Community Development Block Grant's Analysis of Impediments

The City of Victoria Block Grant's Analysis of Impediments was completed in 2020 and examines barriers to fair housing, community development, and socioeconomic development within the city. The resulting document acts as a guide in fostering equitable access to housing for the city and reveals the prevalence of substandard, unaffordable housing in the area. As it relates to transit, the analysis of impediments highlights the need to address service gaps in mobility and improve accessibility for low-income households. Existing initiatives involving neighborhood infrastructure improvements and community parks should be considered when attempting to address mobility barriers and future transit.

2016 City of Victoria's Plan 2035 Comprehensive Plan

The City of Victoria's Plan 2035 Comprehensive Plan is centered on five focus areas relevant to the city's physical growth and development: Land Use and Development; Mobility; Growth Capacity and Management; Economic Opportunity; and Recreation and Amenities. Community surveys from the local community and transportation agencies revealed overall positive sentiments to current transit services, but improvements to route timing, bus stop placement, and amenities at stops were major concerns relevant to Victoria Transit.

Regional Plans

The Golden Crescent – Directions for the Future Plan

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission directly operates, manages, and administers the Victoria Transit program through an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Victoria. As both the designated Urban Transit District and Rural Transit District, GCRPC provides service directly in some rural counties and contracts with providers in others. In addition, GCRPC actively participates in Victoria MPO planning efforts to ensure coordination across local and regional transportation initiatives. The Directions for the Future Plan was adopted in 2024 and examines existing rural and urban services across the Golden Crescent Region with the goal of improving overall system performance. The plan highlights transit as a tool for supporting economic

development and emphasizes the need to enhance service while simultaneously reducing costs as a critical priority for the region.

The plan details recommendations that would move the region closer to the plan's goal of "Help provide for more trips for more people while providing cost-effective, high-quality, and safe transportation for our community".

Some of the relevant transit recommendations are as follows:

1. Victoria Transit should follow a fixed route guideline that maximizes usage.
2. Bus stops and shelters should coincide and, if needed, be relocated to match locations.
3. Develop recommendations that improve overall service and visibility in the community to streamline coordination, funding, and community support.
4. Rural transit improvements need to incorporate short and long-term recommendations that are both feasible and easily implementable.

Local Historical Unit Cost for Transit Stops

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, as the operator of the Victoria Transit program, has historically tracked cost changes for bus stop infrastructure. For example, increases in aluminum (2020) and steel (2021) raised the price of shelters and related amenities by \$15.50 to \$337.30 per item.

Currently, typical planning estimates are:

- Sign + Pole Installation: \$300 – \$600 per stop (\$500 average).
- Basic Shelter: \$10,000, with higher costs when adding lighting, ADA pads, or other enhancements.

These benchmarks provide a realistic basis for evaluating future transit stop improvements and enhancements.

GCRPC Limited English Proficiency Plan (GCRPC LEP Plan)

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's Limited English Proficiency Plan was adopted and updated in 2022 to ensure individuals with limited English proficiency can access information and services relevant to transportation in the Golden Crescent region.

The plan is centered on 5 goals as follows:

1. Identifying LEP individuals in need of assistance through past requests, informal conversations, and census bureau language identification cards.
2. Provide language assistance measures such as written materials in Spanish, oral support, and proper community outreach tools.
3. Training bus operators, dispatchers, supervisors, admin, and management to follow LEP/Title VI guidelines.

4. Provide notices to LEP individuals through printed materials, online materials, and news releases.
5. Monitor and update the plan according to service and/or demographic changes.

The plan discusses how these policies would impact Victoria Transit, including its paratransit services, as well as programs such as Golden Crescent Transit, commuter services, and 5310 – Enhanced Mobility transportation. By removing language barriers, it can ensure non-English speakers can understand the public transportation services available, access transit information, and participate in transit planning activities. An update in late 2022 amended the plan and provided additional information as required for the Title VI Program for individuals to issue relevant complaints to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Federal Transit Administration, Texas Department of Transportation, or seek relevant private counsel.

GCRPC Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan, 2022-2026

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission’s Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan, adopted in 2022, is an update to the 2017 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan. Needs and possible solutions for regional transportation issues are identified in the five-year plan. Policy and planning projects, operation and capital improvement projects, and finance projects are the three objectives of the plan. Through surveys, respondents revealed that the primary motivator for their chosen mode of transportation is convenience, time saving capability, and whether a person’s vehicle is available to them. Victoria County residents revealed that some of their major priorities include affordable transportation options, extended service hours, increased public awareness of services, increased amenities and signage, and fleet improvements. To address this, the plan recommends increasing the availability of transportation services, improving fare collection processes, installing shelters, creating more accessible bus stops, and increasing public awareness and involvement of transit options.