



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Infrastructure

September 2020

# South Island Transportation Strategy

Transforming South  
Island Transportation





Galloping Goose Regional Trail

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# Message from the Minister

Over the last few months, the lives of many British Columbians have been disrupted as we have been forced to adapt to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. It's been a difficult time for many, but B.C.'s Restart Plan is putting us on a road to social and economic recovery.

This time has also provided a unique opportunity that we don't often get—a chance to see how our communities look and move when we slow down. It also gives us a glimpse at what our transportation future could look like with careful planning.

In neighbourhoods across southern Vancouver Island, you'll see more and more families out for walks. People are exploring their communities by bike. Joggers, skateboarders and people on scooters are bringing our streets and sidewalks alive.

As we reset and carefully find our way to a new normal, it's my sincere hope that the change people have begun to embrace will continue. Fewer gas-powered and single-occupant vehicles on the road; more people walking and biking; an increased emphasis on public transportation to get around.

That's the future we're working toward with our South Island Transportation Strategy.

Improvements to the public transportation network across the South Island are at the centre of this strategy, to make it easier for people to get to transit, and to make transit the quicker, more convenient choice for travel. We'll look at all options to make public transit more accessible, including exploring the possibility of commuter rail between Victoria and Langford.

We see existing regional employment and commercial centres, including Uptown/Mayfair, Sidney, Langford, Colwood and Sooke, becoming nodes for integrated transportation—places close to home that serve as a local hub for all modes of regional travel.

It's an approach to transportation that will strengthen neighbourhoods and help build healthy, sustainable communities that support transportation needs for all ages and abilities.

When we integrate park and ride facilities, and bike and pedestrian trails with transit service at regional hubs, it means that outlying, less expensive areas of the region become more accessible.

This will lead to an increase in affordable housing options across the region. People can choose to live in some of the more affordable areas of the region and still get to key destinations like the university, healthcare facilities and the downtown core quickly and efficiently.

These are all ideas we are exploring in our effort to invoke a bold and lasting change in mobility, and our work begins today. Partnerships with Indigenous, local, regional and federal governments, and transportation agencies like BC Transit and BC Ferries will be integral to moving this plan forward.

In short, we're working to close gaps in local networks and make travel across the region as seamless as possible. I look forward to continuing our good work together as we build liveable, affordable communities and make life better for those who live, work and play across southern Vancouver Island.



**Honourable Claire Trevena**  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

# Introduction

The Province is committed to making life better for the people that live, work and travel in the South Island. This is reflected in many initiatives already underway across the province.

The South Island is home to a diverse population and economy situated in an exceptional natural location that continues to attract businesses and people that want to take advantage of all the region has to offer. To ensure the South Island remains prosperous, we've developed an integrated transportation strategy to support sustainable growth. This Strategy aims to connect people, services and goods safely and reliably across the South Island and to the rest of the province, while supporting affordable, accessible, healthy, vibrant communities, and a strong economy and environment.

The Province recognizes a growing need to fundamentally shift how people move around South Vancouver Island. New approaches are essential to address transportation challenges that go beyond reducing our dependence on single-occupancy vehicles. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the true potential of our transportation network and the opportunity to create an integrated network that is desirable to use. People must feel safe using active transportation routes. Using public transportation must be appealing for commuters. This will require careful thought and consideration moving forward.

The pandemic has also highlighted the need for investments in our transportation infrastructure to be dynamic and responsive to rapidly changing situations.

There are many opportunities to improve existing transportation networks in new ways, such as shifting towards sustainable travel choices, improving connections and building integrated transportation networks, and accommodating a variety of transportation options to move people and goods throughout South Vancouver Island.

The South Island Transportation Strategy is an integrated approach to support and encourage many travel choices by focusing policy and investment on increasing the infrastructure needed to build connections, capacity, improve safety and the choices for sustainable travel. The Strategy identifies where there are gaps and barriers to a robust and sustainable inter-regional network.

In developing the Strategy, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure worked with Indigenous and local governments, transportation authorities and key stakeholders to gather information as well as gain Indigenous, local and regional perspectives. What we heard is reflected in the goals we have developed and the priorities set out in this Strategy.

Achieving these goals will require partnerships with Indigenous, local and regional governments, transportation authorities, and key stakeholders. Furthermore, through strong relationships, the strategy will guide the Province in its policies, programs and investments for transportation on the South Island.

# South Island Vision

The South Island Transportation Strategy was informed and shaped by multiple priorities. Since 2017, the Provincial Government has implemented a wide range of strategies and plans to make life better for all British Columbians, including those in southern Vancouver Island. This includes building infrastructure that our growing province needs to benefit people and families, regardless of where they live or their economic status.

Additionally, in this year's Budget 2020, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, alongside the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, committed to undertaking a new Integrated Transportation and Development Planning (ITDP) process to create a collaborative vision for B.C.'s transportation and affordable development needs. This will contribute to an efficient and accessible transportation network for all travel options that connects communities, regions and global markets. Developing an integrated transportation plan that is founded on land use, affordable housing, sustainability and connectivity is key to making a lasting change in the South Island. It will improve economic prosperity and make life better for the people who live here.

The Province is committed to building a sustainable economy that will create good-paying jobs, help businesses succeed, and ensure we can supply the programs and services needed by our diverse and growing population.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need to be responsive and adaptable to changing situations that can affect all aspects of day-to-day life. While it is still unknown what the lasting effects of the pandemic may be, the core values that make up the long-term strategy for a sustainable growth and a healthy economy remain unchanged. The current situation shows the need for a resilient and sustainable transportation system that can aid in our immediate recovery.

As recovery from the pandemic continues, in order for the economy to keep pace with projected population and trade growth, British Columbia needs an integrated transportation strategy aligned across regions, such as the South Island. We must be able to address congestion on our trade corridors, enable the seamless movement of people and goods, and encourage development of diverse, affordable, connected communities.

Providing people with affordable and efficient travel choices in the South Island will allow for better engagement in economic opportunities, partnerships with Indigenous communities, and better social connections.

Improving the connectivity of urban and rural areas for the movement of people and goods will assist the resource sectors and employment centres in the South Island, which support the economy of this region and the province.

Integrating land use, housing, and economic development with transportation investment and policies within the South Island will support sustainable development and have positive impacts on affordable housing, accessibility, climate change and quality of life.

Creating safe and reliable trade corridors in the South Island is a key component of a sustainable economy for the region and the province.

# Working with Indigenous, Local, Regional and Provincial Priorities

The Strategy does more than build on the many previous transportation planning initiatives completed in the South Island by the ministry and others. It is a new way of thinking that seeks to develop a distinct set of goals that still align with the current policies, goals, planning and priorities of Indigenous, local and regional governments, and key stakeholders.

The Strategy was developed with input from Indigenous, local, regional and provincial plans and initiatives which are shaping the direction of transportation in the region and across the province, including:

- Move. Commute. Connect. (B.C.'s Active Transportation Strategy)
- CleanBC
- Cowichan Tribes Transportation and Mobility Plan
- 2018 Vancouver Island Economic Alliance Report
- Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Transportation Plan
- CRD Regional Trail Master Plan
- CRD Regional Growth Strategy
- Victoria Transit Future Plan
- Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Regional Collaboration Framework
- Municipal plans (Let's Move Saanich; GoVictoria)
- 2020 Island Rail Corridor Condition Assessment Report (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)
- 2019 Westshore Express Passenger Ferry Service Pre-Feasibility Study (SNC Lavalin)

While the Strategy considered these plans and initiatives to ensure alignment with the various priorities across the region, it seeks to take it a step further with a bold and innovative approach to integrated planning.

These documents were developed and reviewed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but remain important and relevant to the Strategy.

## **Aligning with Economic Recovery**

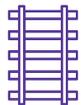
As we look forward to implementation, additional engagement will be required to ensure the dynamic nature of the transportation sector continues to respond and react to the changing needs of communities, as we adjust to the new realities of life and work in a post-pandemic environment.

# South Vancouver Island's Transportation Network

The study area focused on all transportation corridors in South Vancouver Island and encompassed areas as far north as Duncan, as far west as Sooke, and the entire Saanich Peninsula. Corridors serving a variety of transportation choices, such as commuter corridors, marine and ferry corridors, rail corridors, and the active transportation and road corridors, were also part of the study area.

## The current network includes:

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**One Rail Corridor**  
(Island Rail Corridor)



**One dedicated bus only corridor**  
(Highway 1/Douglas Street)



**Two provincial ferry corridors**  
(Swartz Bay and Mill Bay/  
Brentwood Bay)



**Two international ferry corridors**  
(Belleville and  
Anacortes)



**Four Regional Trail Corridors**  
(E&N, Galloping Goose, Lochside  
and Trans Canada/Great Trail)



**Air corridors** (Victoria International  
Airport, Victoria Harbour and  
Camel Point)



**Three major highway corridors**  
(Highways 1, 14 and 17)



**Local and arterial corridors**  
(13 municipalities)

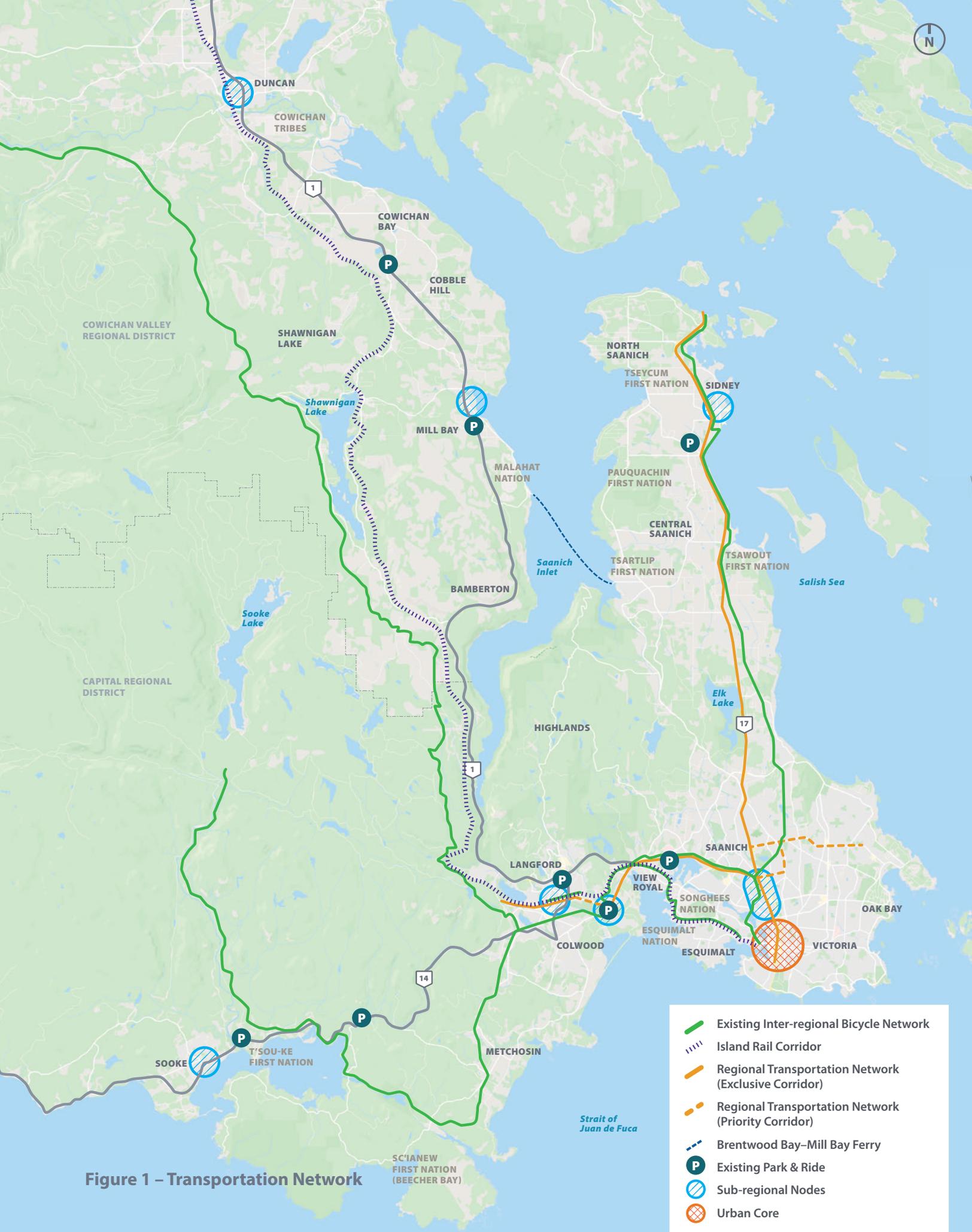


Figure 1 – Transportation Network

-  Existing Inter-regional Bicycle Network
-  Island Rail Corridor
-  Regional Transportation Network (Exclusive Corridor)
-  Regional Transportation Network (Priority Corridor)
-  Brentwood Bay–Mill Bay Ferry
-  Existing Park & Ride
-  Sub-regional Nodes
-  Urban Core

# Working with Indigenous and Local Governments, and Stakeholders

The Strategy was developed, in part, by building on the extensive consultation that has been undertaken to develop a wide variety of transportation initiatives in the area (for example, the CRD Regional Transportation Plan, BC Transit Future Plan, Active Transportation Strategy, Clean BC and municipal plans).

As part of the process, the ministry worked with Indigenous, local and regional governments, transportation authorities, and key stakeholders who offered valuable perspectives on various modes of transportation in the region.

The ministry engaged with the 16 Indigenous communities represented in the South Island to understand their specific interests and challenges. The ministry will continue to work collaboratively with these Indigenous groups to support safe and more accessible transportation networks for their communities.

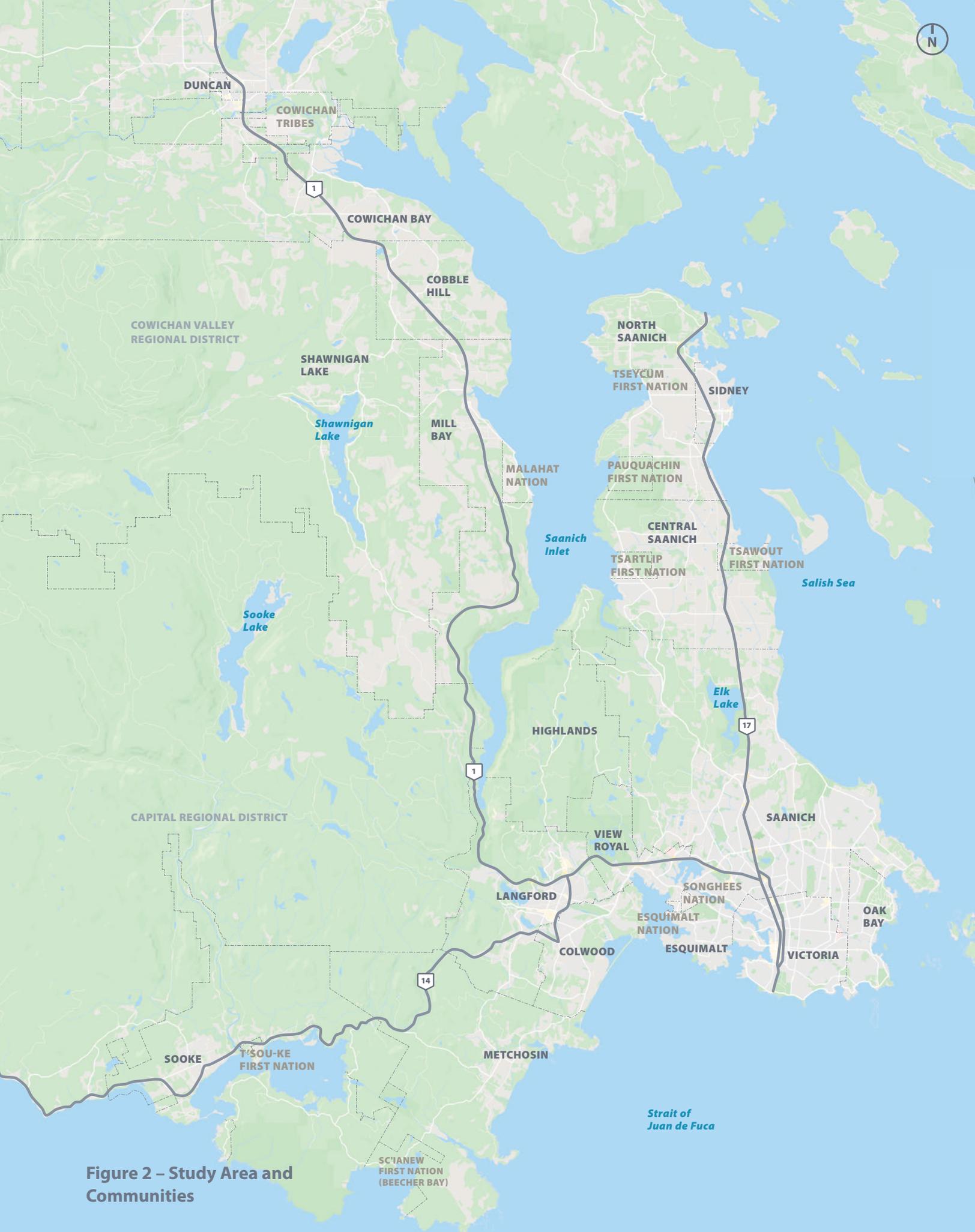
A Technical Advisory Group consisting of representatives from the Capital Regional District (CRD), Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), municipalities, BC Transit, BC Ferries and the Department of National Defense was created to provide a wide cross-section of the interests and priorities throughout the South Island.

Feedback received from this group was used by the ministry to ensure that we fully understood regional challenges, and that our priorities and aspirations were aligned. It also reinforced that the successful implementation of the Strategy will require partnerships and collaboration.

## Engagement

The ministry held **more than 40 meetings, workshops and presentations** with Indigenous, local and regional governments, transportation authorities and key stakeholder groups over the course of the creation of the Strategy.





**Figure 2 – Study Area and Communities**

# Why Investments are Needed: Challenges and Opportunities

## Safety

The ministry supports Vision Zero, in which traffic fatalities and serious injuries are eliminated. While safety is a priority throughout the South Island, safety issues are particularly evident along Highway 1 and Highway 17, where collision rates are highest at select major intersections.

Improvements to the active transportation networks, such as crossings and separation from traffic, reduces the conflict with vehicles.

Analysis of traffic volumes during two months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March and April 2020) shows a decrease of traffic on major corridors between 26-53%, when compared to the same period in 2019.

The ministry will continue to monitor travel patterns throughout the year to ensure that the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the network are better understood and will use this to inform future decisions.

**This reduction of vehicles on the roads has also resulted in a decrease in the number of collisions.**



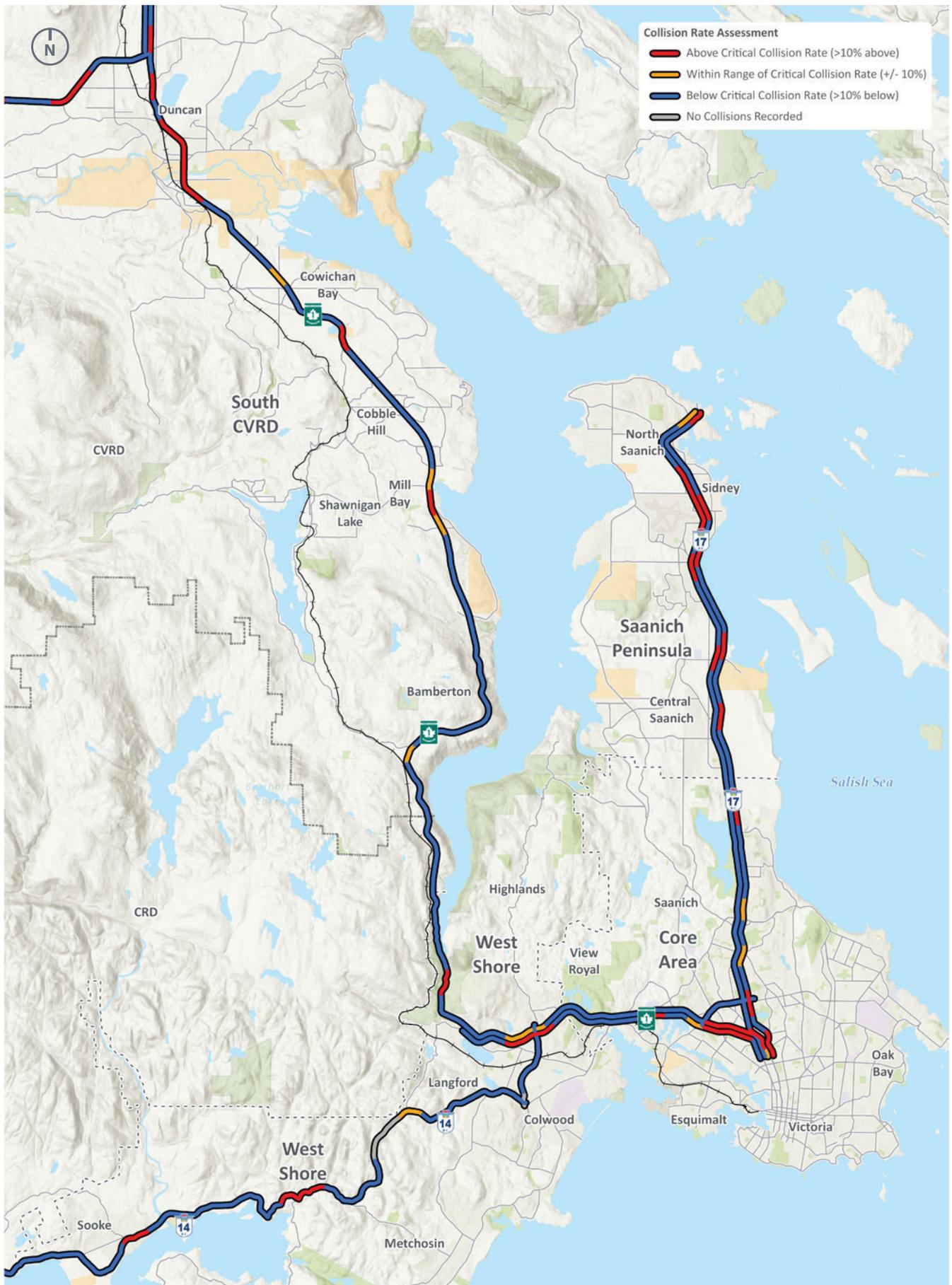


Figure 3 – Collision Rates

## Reliability

Greater variation in travel time indicates reduced reliability. The outlying areas of the South Island experience issues with reliability, such as along the Highway 17 and Highway 14 corridors, and sections of Highway 1 outside the core areas.

Reducing the reliance on single occupancy vehicles by increasing transit and active transportation options will result in travel time savings for all modes of transportation.

As people move from their vehicles to alternative modes of transportation, we will need to ensure that the transit and cycling infrastructure is sufficiently robust to afford users with reliable travel times.

Continued improvements to the transit network, such as the bus only Douglas Street Corridor, have led to improved reliability and travel times for transit users.

The COVID-19 situation has impacted travel times and will continue to be monitored to better understand the effects of the pandemic on the network.

### Unpredictable Travel Times

A typical vehicle trip in 2019 from Mill Bay to Victoria would take approximately:



**43 minutes** during the morning peak and **as long as 66 minutes** on some days.

With expected growth, by 2038, this same trip would take:



up to **87 minutes** on a typical day and up to **144 minutes with variability of conditions**.

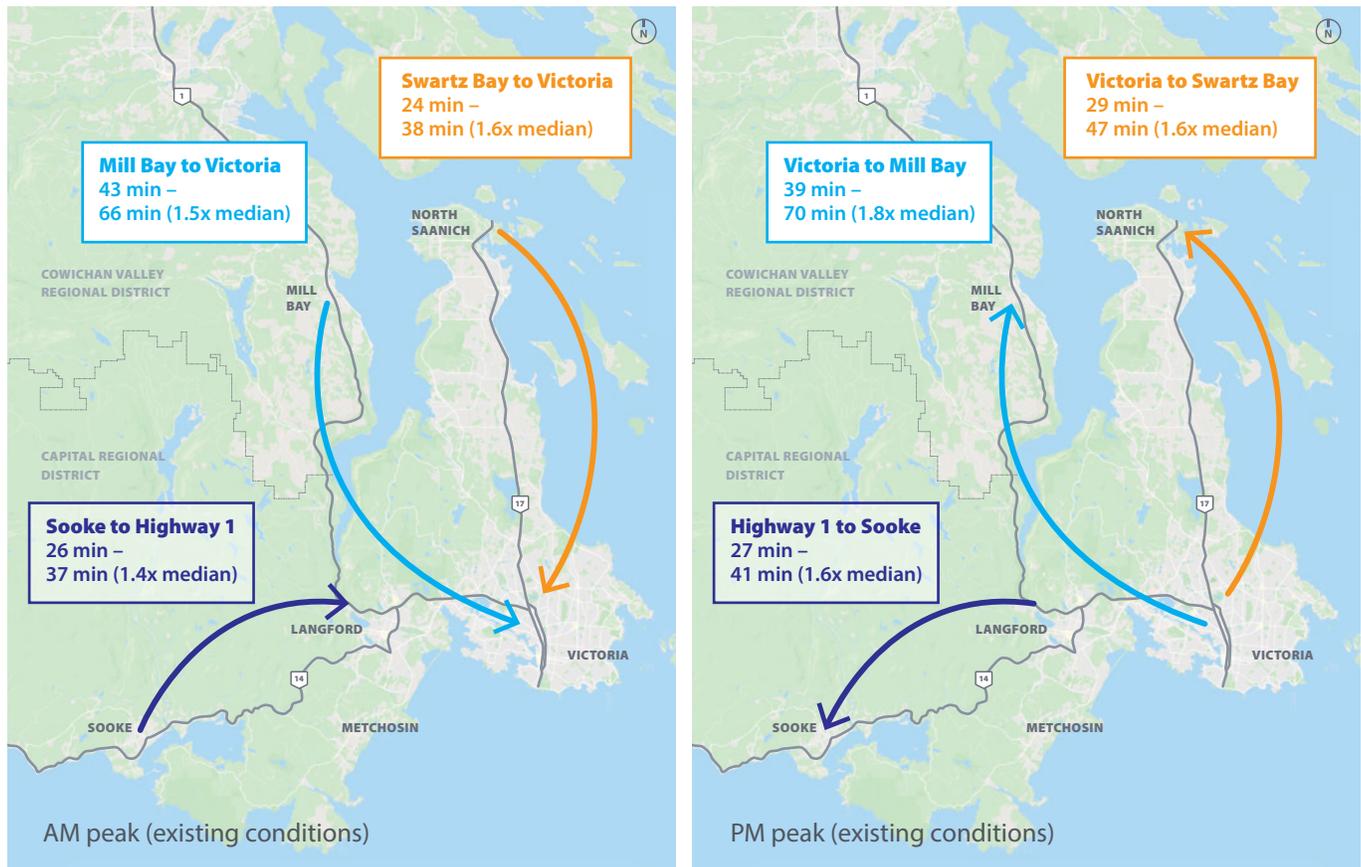
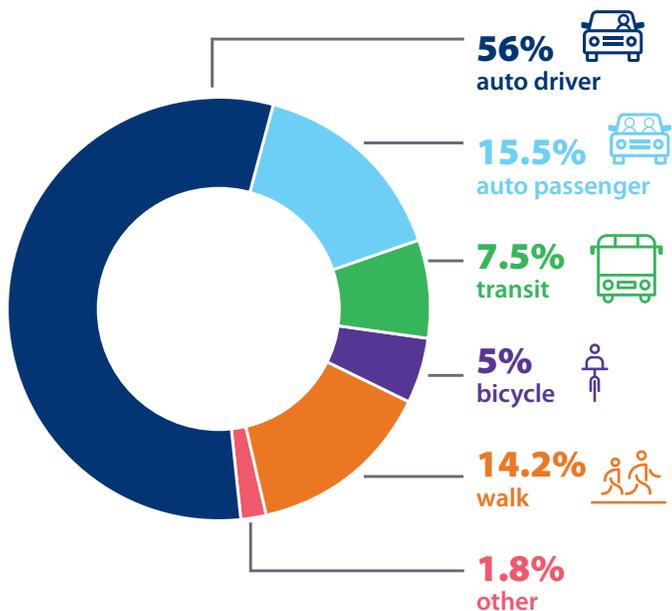


Figure 4 – Reliability

## Current Mode Share

2017 Capital Regional District,  
Origin Destination Household Travel Survey



## Sustainability

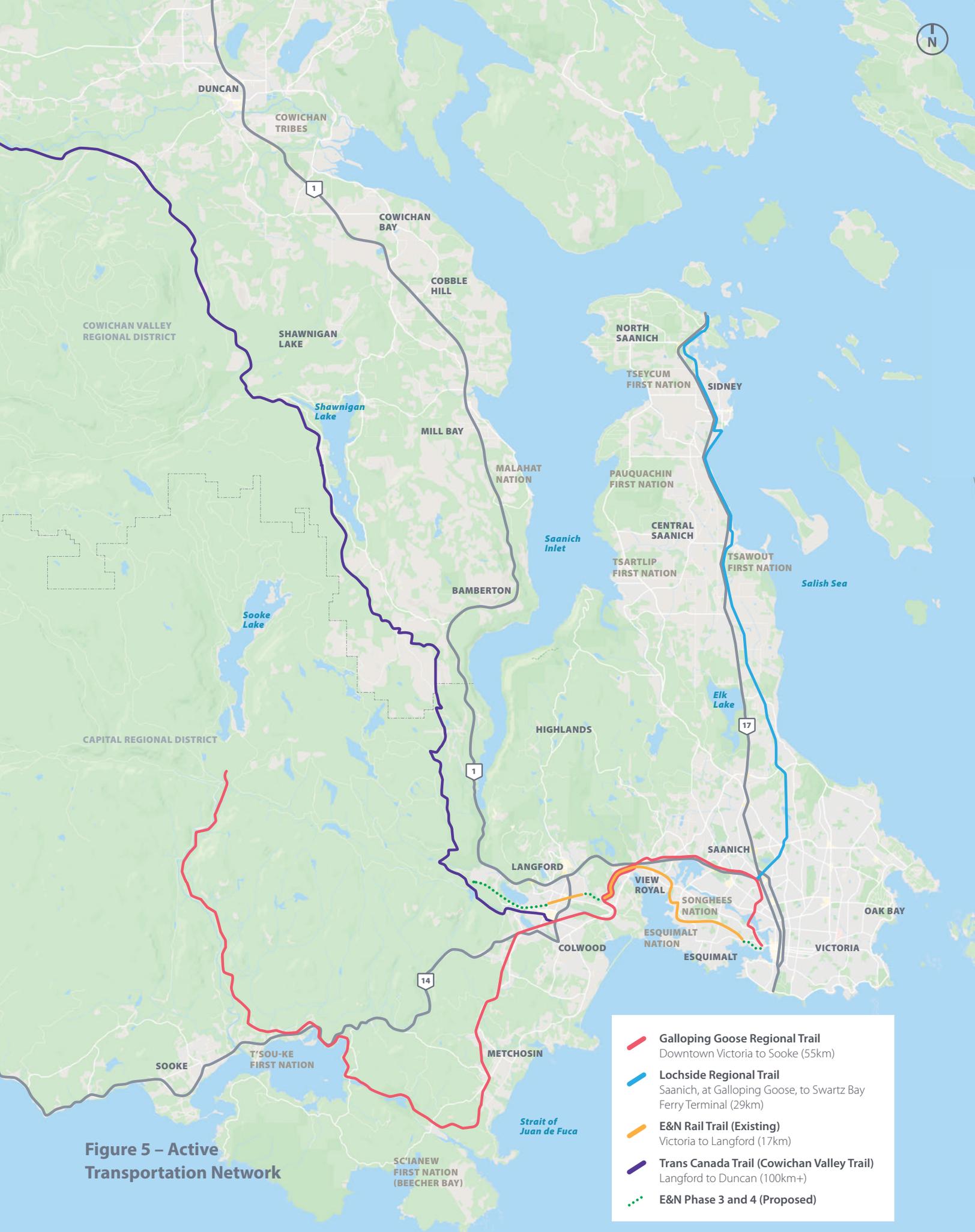
The Capital Regional District declared a climate emergency in 2019. A shift to sustainable transportation modes such as walking, cycling and transit, and the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is a priority throughout the province and South Island.

Priority is highest for investments in sustainable travel modes in core areas and communities along Highway 14 and Highway 17 where travel distances, settlement patterns, and infrastructure make these desirable options.

Compared to 2007 greenhouse gas emission levels, the Province, through the CleanBC initiative, is now **committed to reductions of 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 80% by 2050.**

**cleanBC**  
our nature. our power. our future.





**Figure 5 – Active Transportation Network**

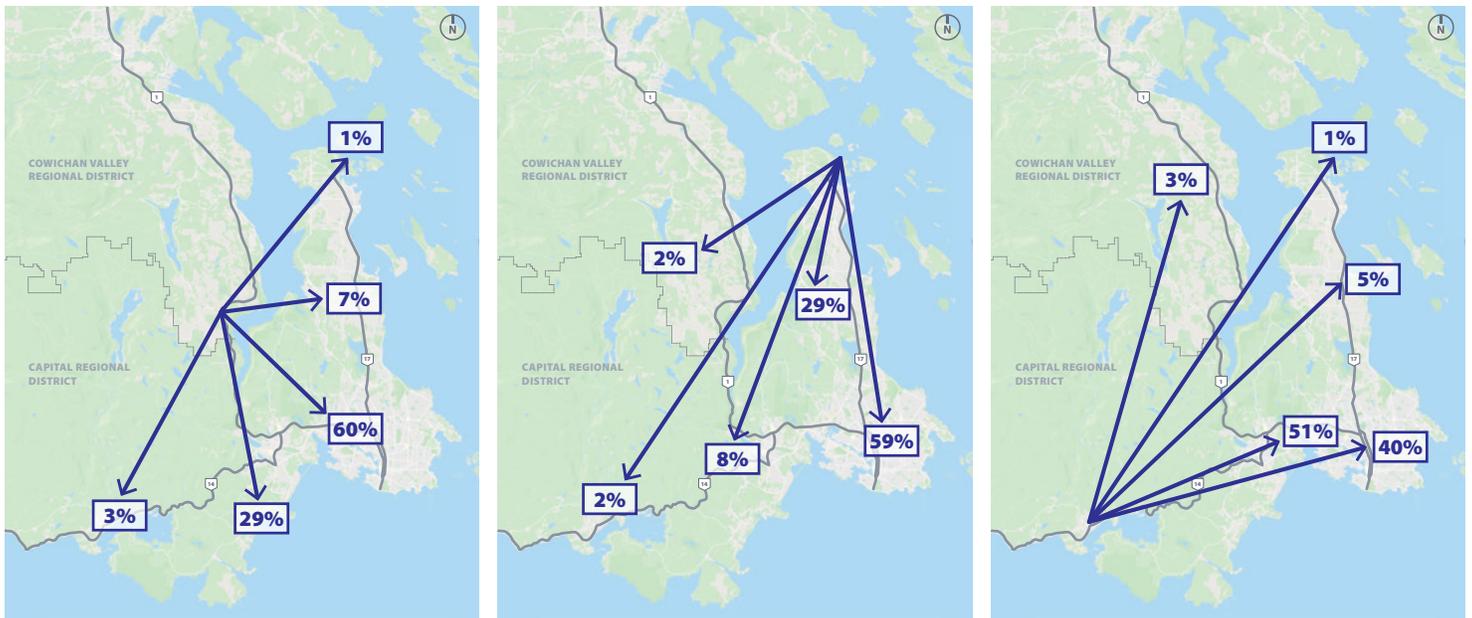
- **Galloping Goose Regional Trail**  
Downtown Victoria to Sooke (55km)
- **Lochside Regional Trail**  
Saanich, at Galloping Goose, to Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal (29km)
- **E&N Rail Trail (Existing)**  
Victoria to Langford (17km)
- **Trans Canada Trail (Cowichan Valley Trail)**  
Langford to Duncan (100km+)
- ⋯ **E&N Phase 3 and 4 (Proposed)**

## Connectivity

Community connections have been identified as a challenge across the region with the greatest concern in the core areas, including Highway 14 and Highway 1. Affordable housing is often found outside of the core areas, putting added pressure on the transportation network to move people to and from areas of employment in the core.

Improvements targeting better connections are the highest priority in these locations. Strengthening connections between travel modes is also a key opportunity for improvement to support the goals for integrated transportation development.

We will work with municipal partners to create thoughtful development where transportation investment can support growth in the region.



**Figure 6 – Distribution of Daily Travel Across Key Gateways**

# Aligning Goals and Aspirations

## Aspirations

Plans and strategies developed for communities throughout the South Island by the Province and Indigenous, local and regional governments share a common vision of an integrated sustainable transportation network.

These aspirations lay the foundation for a vision for the South Island and highlight how an integrated transportation system supporting different travel options plays a vital role in achieving those future goals. Although the plans and strategies are unique and may point to slightly different actions, they are well aligned and point to a common vision. The Strategy supports and reinforces key aspirations from these plans and strategies, including:

### ✔ Take Action on Climate Change

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Tap into alternative fuel sources
- Support community liveability by complementing transportation investments with land use planning, housing development, economic and employment clusters
- Support CleanBC

### ✔ Connect Communities

- Increase the connections between all modes of travel
- Enhance transit services to sub-regional population centres
- Support projects that lessen barriers to affordability and allow for inclusivity of travel
- Support projects that improve access to economic opportunities and social services

### ✔ Reduce Vehicle Dependency

- Provide sustainable travel choices
- Promote sustainable travel options

### ✔ Ensure Sustainable Travel Options

- Improve reliability of sustainable travel networks
- Increase the connectivity between different modes

### ✔ Support Active Transportation and Healthy Living

- Establish active transportation network plans
- Continued investment in walking and cycling infrastructure

### ✔ Grow the Economy

- Ensure efficient movement of goods and services
- Provide attractive travel options to encourage tourism

## Goals

The ministry has developed four goals to advance the South Island Transportation Strategy:

- 1. Ensure sustainable options for a variety of travel modes**
- 2. Strengthen connections between travel modes and improve connections between communities**
- 3. Improve the safety and reliability of the transportation network**
- 4. Support and encourage active transportation options**

### Remaining flexible in the face of COVID-19

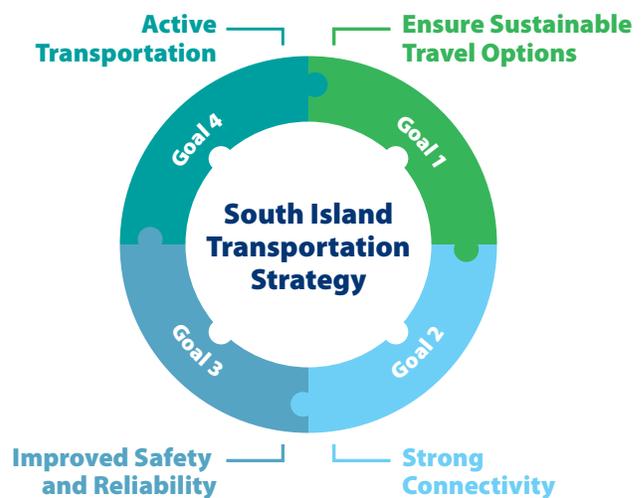
The COVID-19 pandemic poses an immediate and still-evolving challenge to the transportation network and society as a whole. Its long-term effects remain unknown. The pathway of implementation and timing to achieve the goals of the South Island Transportation Strategy will require flexibility as we recover from the pandemic.

The path forward will use this experience to make our communities more resilient and adaptable to respond to the potential for future outbreaks or other disasters that may impact the region in the future.

These goals reflect the priorities and aspirations of the region and the province, and support integrated transportation planning by focusing on:

- Leveraging existing plans, while expanding their geographic scope and time horizon
- Contributing to the design of affordable, liveable communities
- Building efficient transportation networks
- Achieving GHG targets and aligning with CleanBC and the Active Transportation Strategy
- Ensuring innovative solutions that respond to South Island and B.C. conditions
- Advancing an Integrated Transportation and Development Planning strategy

Given the integrated nature of the Strategy, success will require the collective achievement of all of the goals. Strategies and priorities will therefore need to directly support or consider all four goals, rather than focus on any individual goal.



## Goal 1

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### Ensure sustainable options for a variety of travel modes

Integrating transportation investment and policies with land use, housing, and economic development policies to support sustainable development will have positive effects on affordable housing, accessibility, climate change and the quality of life in the region.

Policies, programs and strategies to accelerate the move from gas-powered transport to alternative fuels such as electric vehicles, are also key elements to advance this goal. Sustainability objectives will be addressed by supporting and encouraging people to take public transportation and engage in active transportation wherever possible.

Since the completion of the dedicated bus lane facilities on Douglas Street/ Highway 1, northbound commuters on West Shore routes have seen travel time savings of up to 20 minutes during the PM peak.

#### Specific strategies include:

- Working with partners to establish an economic vision for the South Island
- Promoting investment, economic development and job opportunities near affordable housing and services
- Encouraging growth and densification in thoughtfully designated growth areas serviced by public transportation and active transportation networks
- Supporting and implementing bus lanes on highways and other inter-regional service corridors
- Implementing transit priority treatments at intersections along highways
- Supporting the provision of strategically located transit exchanges and park and rides
- Improving access to sustainable transportation choices for Indigenous communities
- Adding electric vehicle charging stations
- Developing policies and support infrastructure to increase use of energy efficient vehicles and alternative fuels
- Support policies and programs that encourage the shift away from single occupancy vehicles towards sustainable travel choices

#### The priorities to support and advance these strategies include:

##### Short-term

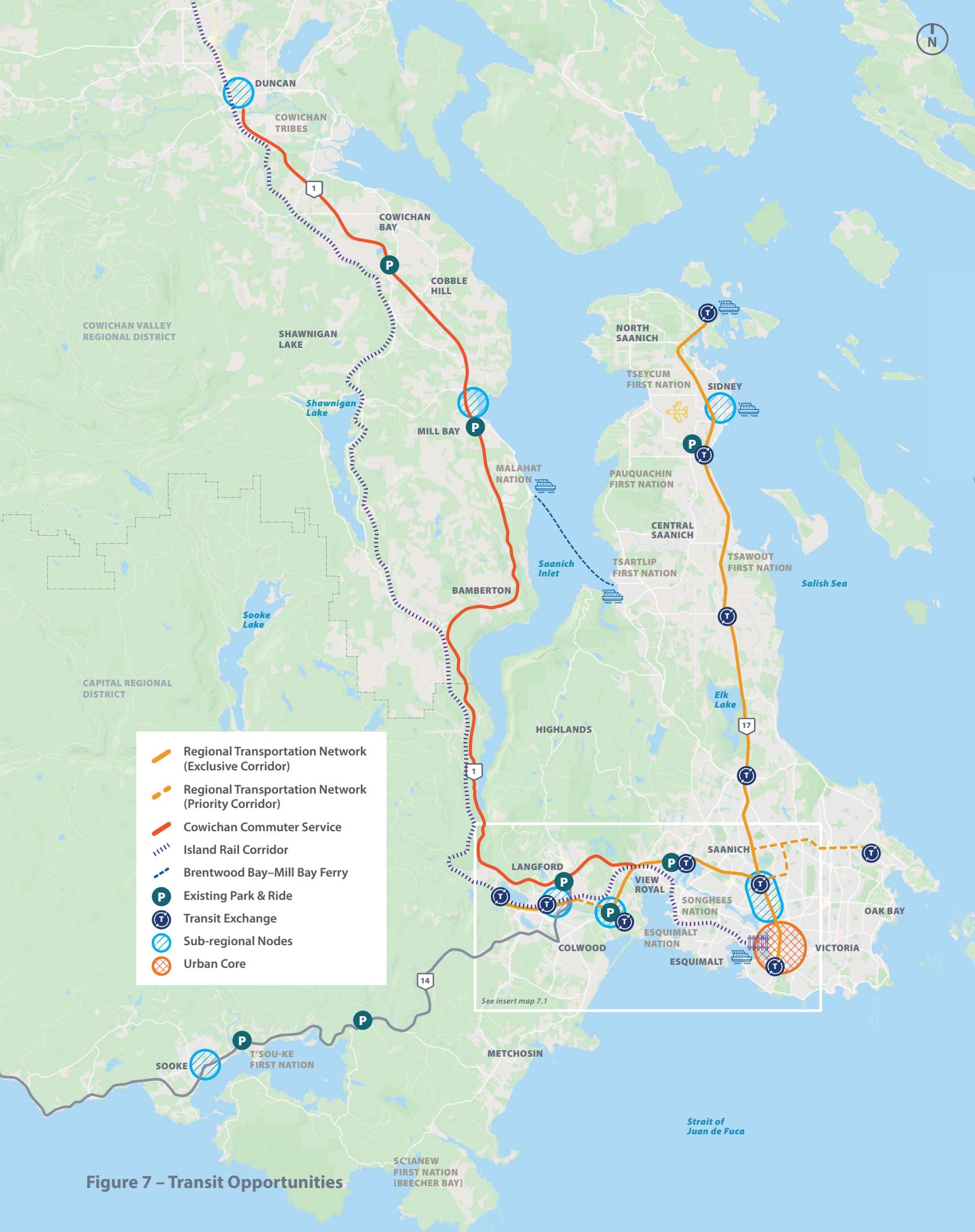
- Prioritizing transit stop improvements servicing Indigenous communities
- Installing electric vehicle charging stations at mobility hubs
- Supporting BC Transit's Low Carbon Fleet Program to electrify its fleet
- Prioritizing transit by installing transit queue jumpers along the Highway 17 corridor

##### Medium-term

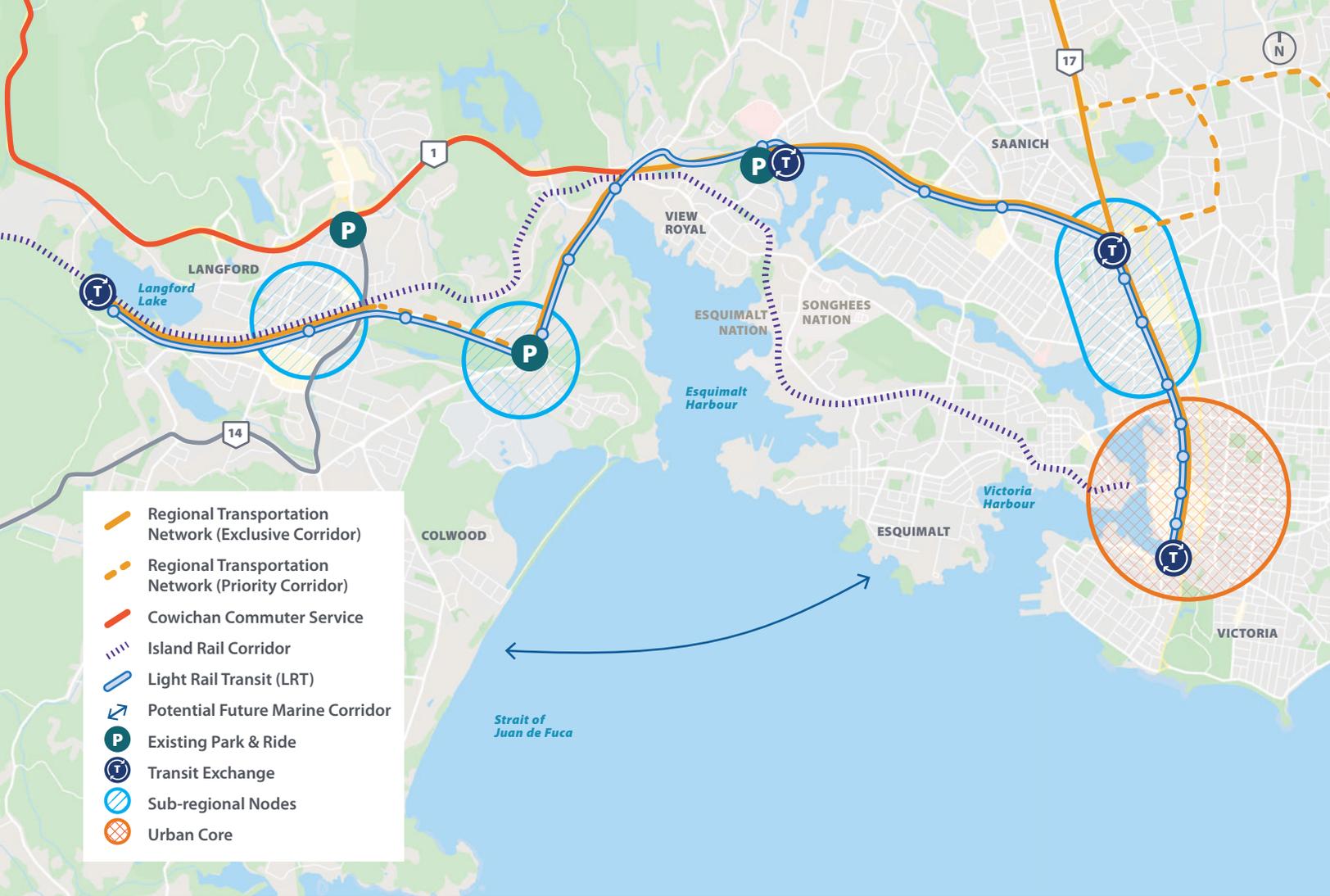
- Supporting and advancing the Rapid Transit Corridor along Highway 1 between Victoria and the Western Communities through partnership with BC Transit
- Supporting BC Transit, View Royal and Colwood in establishing a Transit Priority Corridor along Old Island Highway

##### Long-term

- Exploring the viability of future marine transportation corridors
- Exploring the potential of commuter rail on the Island Rail Corridor between Westhills and Victoria



**Figure 7 – Transit Opportunities**



**Insert Map 7.1 – Core Transit Opportunities**



## Goal 2

### Strengthen connections between travel modes and improve connections between communities

Better integration between communities, and employment and industry centres, will enable more people to access services, participate in economic opportunities and support resource sectors across the South Island and beyond.

Integrating travel will be accomplished by identifying the missing links that prevent or discourage people from using sustainable choices, and partnering with Indigenous, local and regional agencies to close those gaps. This will include addressing the ‘first and last mile’ barriers within the region. By providing better travel choices in land use and development that align with regional growth strategies, the Strategy will support sustainable growth and the creation of integrated communities.

#### Specific strategies include:

- Connecting communities in the South Island, including Indigenous communities
- Supporting attractive intermodal connections at mobility hubs serving inter-regional travel
- Implementing policies and regulations to support new forms of mobility for sustainable choices that are aligned with regional growth strategies
- Identifying and prioritizing gaps in and between the networks
- Working with local and regional government to expand bike share and car share

#### The priorities to support and advance these strategies include:

##### Short-term

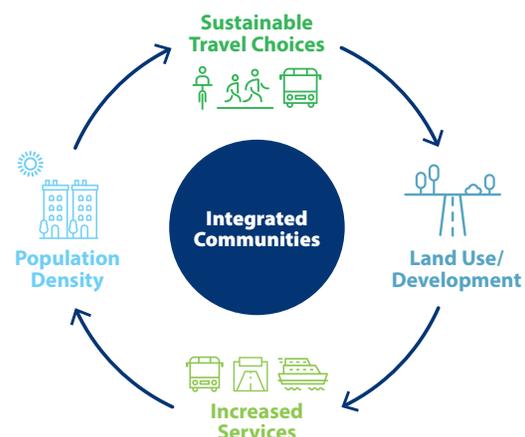
- Advancing development of key transportation hubs that accommodate all travel modes across the region in partnership with BC Transit
- Advancing the development of new park and ride stalls in the CRD and CVRD to increase capacity
- Adding secure bike parking/storage at key locations

##### Medium-term

- Continuing to assess the need for enhancement of inter-city transit commuter services (Cowichan Commuter Service)
- Working with Indigenous, local and regional governments to include Active Transportation Infrastructure in rehabilitation projects that improve inter-regional connections

#### Building Sustainable Communities

The Capital Regional District (through the Regional Growth Strategy) and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (through the Cowichan 2050 Regional Collaboration Framework) have identified growth management, housing affordability and liveability and sustainable transportation as key policy areas.



## Goal 3

### Improve the safety and reliability of the transportation network

Safe, reliable and cost-effective networks for all travel modes are critical for the movement of people of all ages and abilities and goods throughout the region, and are necessary to support all of the goals of this Strategy.

The safety and reliability of inter-regional travel will be addressed through upgrades that improve travel times for transit, active transportation users and general-purpose traffic, and that target high crash locations.

#### Specific strategies include:

- Exploring regional trail enhancements to increase safety of people walking and cycling
- Focusing on intersection improvements to protect vulnerable road users
- Implementing facilities that support sustainable modes and goods movement
- Supporting Vision Zero initiative
- Implementing highway safety and reliability improvements
- Targeting investments to improve network connectivity and redundancy

#### The priorities to support and advance these strategies include:

##### Short-term

- Prioritizing active transportation and pedestrian accessibility during project development within ministry projects
- Prioritizing transit facilities and improvements during project development within ministry projects
- Constructing the Leigh Road/Highway 1 Four-Laning and Median Barrier
- Completing the Connie to Glintz Lake/Highway 14 Project including park and ride, and pedestrian underpass

##### Medium-term

- Advancing work on the Keating Cross Road/Highway 17 project
- Advancing planning, engineering and design work to improve safety, efficiency and active transportation along Highway 1 over the Malahat



**Safety is the ministry's number one priority for all modes of transportation. Work will continue to identify and address the remaining priority sites.** Future infrastructure projects will incorporate active transportation and transit priorities during planning, design and construction.

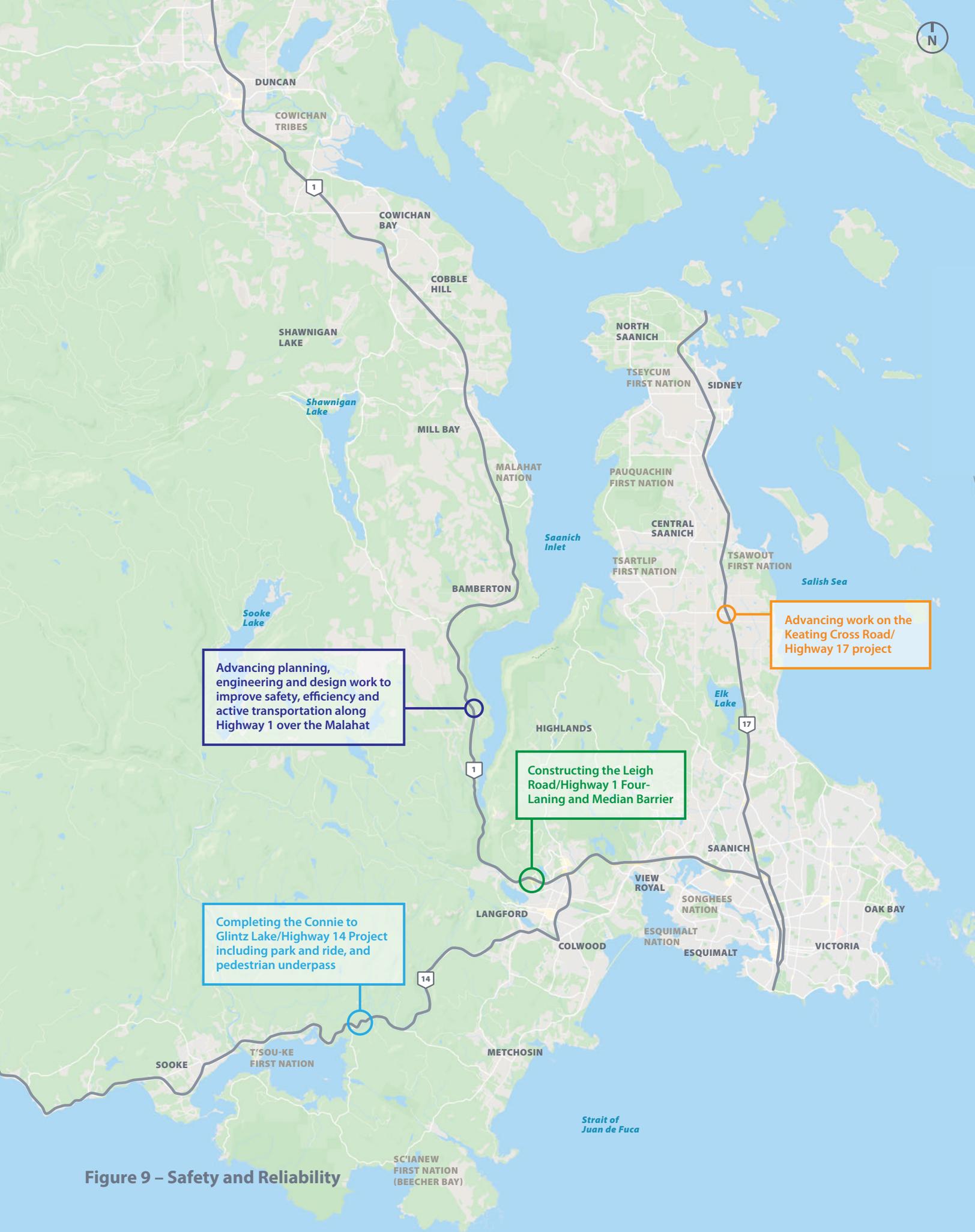


Figure 9 – Safety and Reliability

## Goal 4

### Support and encourage active transportation options

Active transportation infrastructure facilities and networks for all ages and abilities provide transportation options that are accessible to all, and create effective connections to essential community services.

They are also a key component to sustainable land use, housing and economic development and reduce the reliance of single-occupancy vehicles, resulting in lower GHGs. Support for active transportation will be accomplished primarily through partnerships to establish and improve active transportation infrastructure, as well as identifying gaps in inter-regional networks. This aligns with the Province's Active Transportation Strategy, as well as strategies developed by Indigenous, local and regional governments.

#### Specific strategies include:

- Implementing active transportation facilities along corridors serving inter-regional travel
- Supporting upgrades to active transportation facilities and crossings of highways
- Exploring pedestrian and cycling separations for regional trail networks
- Improving comfort and safety of active transportation crossing highways around key urban and sub-regional population centres
- Identifying and prioritizing intersection accessibility issues on urban highways
- Expanding funding for regional active transportation priorities
- Encouraging and supporting regional policies and directions for incentives for sustainable travel modes serving designated urban centres, gateways and sub-regional population centres

#### The priorities to support and advance these strategies include:

##### Short-term

- Encouraging growth of inter-regional trails in the CRD and CVRD: Galloping Goose Regional Trail, Lochside Regional Trail, E&N Rail Trail, Trans Canada Trail
- Supporting Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant applications that align with the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide
- Prioritizing the installation of bike lockers at mobility hubs

##### Medium-term

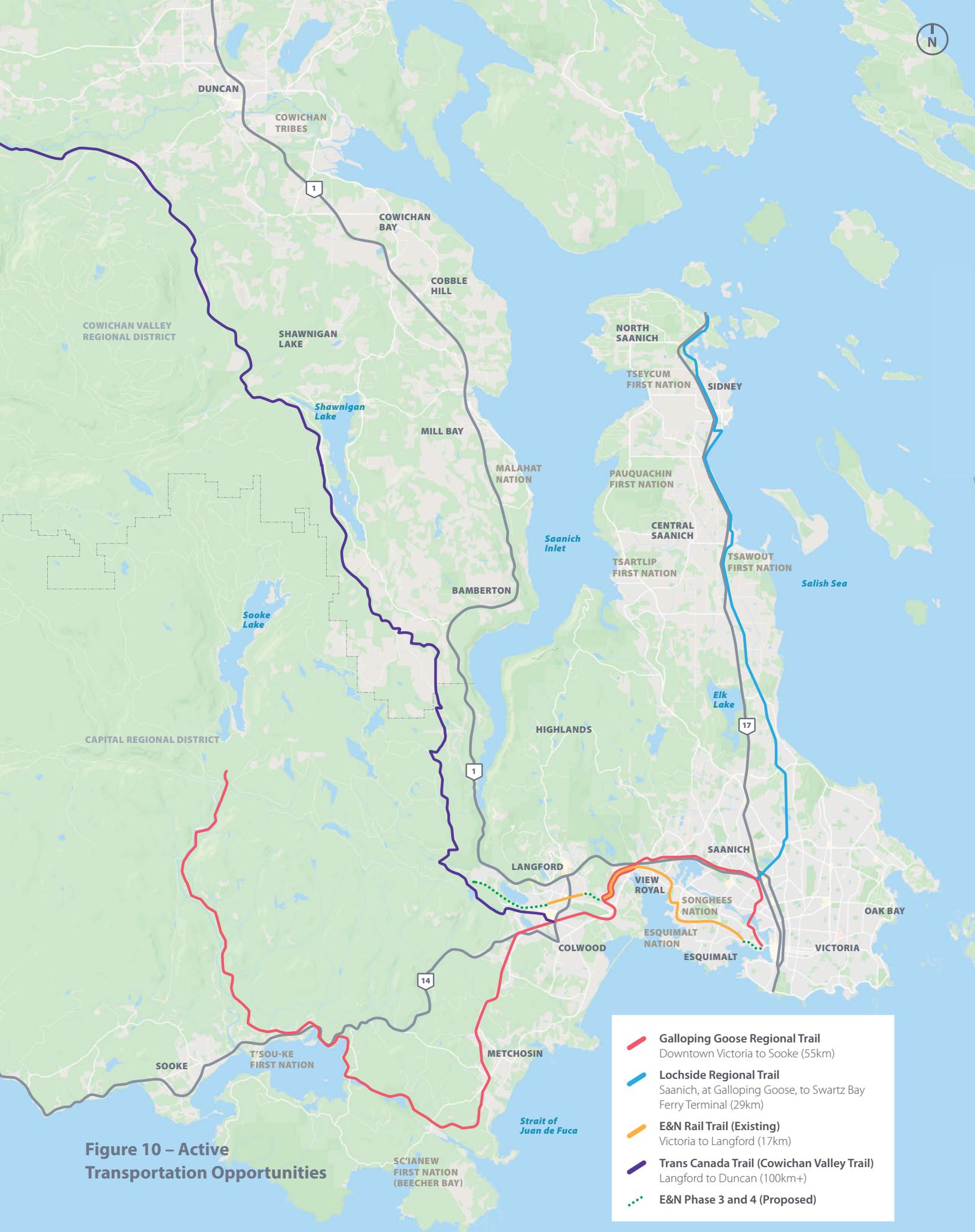
- Working with regional and local governments to advance grade separation of inter-regional trails, add specific bike signals and remove conflict points

#### With CleanBC, we're building a more sustainable transportation system through BC's Active Transportation Strategy, Move. Commute. Connect.

Active transportation means helping people get out of their cars, with safe, easier options for everyone which includes:

- Double the trips taken with active transportation by 2030
- Provide incentives that encourage safe active transportation for all ages and abilities
- Help communities build integrated and accessible active transportation systems
- Deliver universal design principles for active transportation infrastructure





# Summary of Priorities



# South Island Transportation Strategy



Goals

## 1. Ensure sustainable options for a variety of travel modes

## 2. Strengthen connections between travel modes and improve connections between communities

## 3. Improve the safety and reliability of the transportation network

## 4. Support and encourage active transportation options

Strategies

- Working with partners to establish an economic vision for the South Island
- Promoting investment, economic development and job opportunities near affordable housing and services
- Encouraging growth and densification in thoughtfully designated growth areas serviced by public transportation and active transportation networks
- Supporting and implementing bus lanes on highways and other inter-regional service corridors
- Implementing transit priority treatments at intersections along highways
- Supporting the provision of strategically located transit exchanges and park and rides
- Improving access to sustainable transportation choices for Indigenous communities
- Adding electric vehicle charging stations
- Developing policies and support infrastructure to increase use of energy efficient vehicles and alternative fuels
- Support policies and programs that encourage the shift away from single occupancy vehicles towards sustainable travel choices

- Connecting communities in the South Island, including Indigenous communities
- Supporting attractive intermodal connections at mobility hubs serving inter-regional travel
- Implementing policies and regulations to support new forms of mobility for sustainable choices that are aligned with regional growth strategies
- Identifying and prioritizing gaps in and between the networks
- Working with local and regional government to expand bike share and car share

- Exploring regional trail enhancements to increase safety of people walking and cycling
- Focusing on intersection improvements to protect vulnerable road users
- Implementing facilities that support sustainable modes and goods movement
- Supporting Vision Zero initiative
- Implementing highway safety and reliability improvements
- Targeting investments to improve network connectivity and redundancy

- Implementing active transportation facilities along corridors serving inter-regional travel
- Supporting upgrades to active transportation facilities and crossings of highways
- Exploring pedestrian and cycling separations for regional trail networks
- Improving comfort and safety of active transportation crossing highways around key urban and sub-regional population centres
- Identifying and prioritizing intersection accessibility issues on urban highways
- Expanding funding for regional active transportation priorities
- Encouraging and supporting regional policies and directions for incentives for sustainable travel modes serving designated urban centres, gateways and sub-regional population centres

## Transforming South Island Transportation

**S** Short-term      **M** Medium-term      **L** Long-term

Priorities

- S** Prioritizing transit stop improvements servicing Indigenous communities
- S** Installing electric vehicle charging stations at mobility hubs
- S** Supporting BC Transit's Low Carbon Fleet Program to electrify its fleet
- S** Prioritizing transit by installing transit queue jumpers along the Highway 17 corridor
- M** Supporting and advancing the Rapid Transit Corridor along Highway 1 between Victoria and the Western Communities through partnership with BC Transit
- M** Supporting BC Transit, View Royal and Colwood in establishing a Transit Priority Corridor along Old Island Highway
- L** Exploring the viability of future marine transportation corridors
- L** Exploring the potential of commuter rail on the Island Rail Corridor between Westhills and Victoria

- S** Advancing development of key transportation hubs that accommodate all travel modes across the region in partnership with BC Transit
- S** Advancing the development of new park and ride stalls in the CRD and CVRD to increase capacity
- S** Adding secure bike parking/storage at key locations
- M** Continuing to assess the need for enhancement of inter-city transit commuter services (Cowichan Commuter Service)
- M** Working with Indigenous, local and regional governments to include Active Transportation Infrastructure in rehabilitation projects that improve inter-regional connections

- S** Prioritizing active transportation and pedestrian accessibility during project development within ministry projects
- S** Prioritizing transit facilities and improvements during project development within ministry projects
- S** Constructing the Leigh Road/Highway 1 Four-Laning and Median Barrier
- S** Completing the Connie to Glintz Lake/Highway 14 Project including park and ride, and pedestrian underpass
- M** Advancing work on the Keating Cross Road/Highway 17 project
- M** Advancing planning, engineering and design work to improve safety, efficiency and active transportation along Highway 1 over the Malahat

- S** Encouraging growth of inter-regional trails in the CRD and CVRD:
  - › Galloping Goose Regional Trail
  - › Lochside Regional Trail
  - › E&N Rail Trail
  - › Trans Canada Trail
- S** Supporting Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant applications that align with the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide
- S** Prioritizing the installation of bike lockers at mobility hubs
- M** Working with regional and local governments to advance grade separation of inter-regional trails, add specific bike signals and remove conflict points

# Implementing the Strategy

Implementing the South Island Transportation Strategy will require a collective effort from the Province and Indigenous, regional and local governments. Together, we must establish and support decisions on how to plan and build for future growth, while recognizing that people will continue to make individual choices based on their lifestyle goals and preferences.

By bringing land use, transportation and regional growth planning together, we will be better poised to focus government policy and coordinate economic development initiatives. This will allow for distribution of some of the anticipated growth we will see in future decades, and the building of affordable, liveable communities and supplying convenient, efficient and comfortable transportation systems as a realistic alternative to driving.

Since 2017, the Province has invested or committed to investing over \$500 million in the South Island. We remain committed to further investments which will help achieve the goals of this Strategy. But the successful creation of a fully integrated transportation network across all modes of travel will require more than just provincial investment in infrastructure.

This Strategy represents a shift in our collective approach to building capacity in the South Island network. This will take meaningful collaboration and partnerships with Indigenous, local, regional and federal governments to effectively implement the priorities and commitments outlined in this Strategy.

As we move forward, additional work with our partners will be paramount to better understanding their specific economic, environmental, climate change and land use development goals to advance specific priorities.

While the long-term effects of COVID-19 remain unclear, the immediate impacts highlight the need for resilient and integrated transportation networks with the goal moving forward to build back better.



# Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all British Columbians and has served as an important lesson about building communities and transportation networks that can adapt to rapid and wide-spread changes.

While many aspects of our daily lives have been impacted, the long-term effects of the pandemic remain unknown. What has not changed is our core values and vision for improving the lives of British Columbians. An integrated transportation strategy represents one aspect of a holistic approach to sustainable development, a healthy and competitive economy, climate action, and more equity for everyone that lives in this region and across the province.

The South Island Transportation Strategy demonstrates the Province's commitment to increasing the capacity of all transportation networks through sustainable travel choices and smart investment decisions.

It provides a clear path forward to addressing the transportation challenges in the South Island and advancing the many opportunities in the region to support an integrated transportation network for all modes of travel.

The Sooke River Road Intersection Project was completed in 2019. This project improved safety for drivers, transit users, cyclists and pedestrians on a busy section of Highway 14 near the local school.





Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Infrastructure

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**Transforming South  
Island Transportation**

