

From: **Minister, TT TT:EX** <[TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>  
Date: Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 2:15 PM  
Subject: 338694 – Vancouver Island inter-regional transportation  
To: Brendan Read <[readbrendanb@gmail.com](mailto:readbrendanb@gmail.com)>  
Cc: Anderson.MLA, George LASS:EX <[George.Anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:George.Anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca)>

Brendan Read  
Transport Action British Columbia

338694 – Vancouver Island inter-regional transportation

Dear Brendan Read:

Thank you for your emails, sent on behalf of Transport Action British Columbia, regarding inter-regional transportation on Vancouver Island. Our government recognizes that people want more options to travel safely and conveniently between communities without a vehicle, and we are working to expand travel options on the Island.

I appreciate that you would like the ministry to undertake a study to determine the feasibility of establishing an island-wide tram-train service on the Island Rail Corridor that links to proposed Bus Rapid Transit routes in the Capital region.

As you know, the ministry is continuing to facilitate meetings with the Island Corridor Foundation, regional districts, First Nations and Transport Canada on potential future uses of the corridor. Many ideas have been raised in these sessions, and some parties have proposed similar options for the corridor's use, particularly in the Victoria region.

While it is still too early to anticipate outcomes of the engagement process, which remains underway, we anticipate that options raised during the engagement will be discussed and evaluated once the engagement period is completed. I have shared your email with ministry staff involved in this work so your suggestion can be considered as part of future discussions.

Regarding intercity transit service, although the provincial government helps fund transit service in B.C., decisions on routes, fares and service levels are made by local governments. Any additional routes would require BC Transit to work with local governments to determine their service expansion priorities, submit an expansion proposal and allocate appropriate funding based on the standard cost-sharing ratios.

While there is currently no plan for an intercommunity transit authority as you suggest, BC Transit continues to explore opportunities to improve inter-regional transit on Vancouver Island to provide affordable service between communities.

You may be aware that starting early January this year, BC Transit and its local government partner, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, introduced Sunday service between Duncan and Victoria on [Route 66 CVX Cowichan – Victoria Express](#). This addition means that service on the route is now available seven days per week. A previous schedule change also provided a later morning bus departing Duncan on weekdays and a mid-afternoon bus departing Victoria on weekdays to better serve people who may not be travelling for work.

To ensure we can continue to support access to convenient transit service, [Budget 2025](#) provides over \$1 billion in provincial operating and capital funding to BC Transit over the next three years to support transit service delivery and expansion in communities across B.C.

In 2023, the Island-Coastal Economic Trust gathered regional perspectives on the topic of passenger transportation in the Vancouver Island region and [published a report](#), which may help inform potential inter-regional travel improvements on the Island. Funding from the ministry also supported the [Community Passenger Transportation Fund](#), which funded 14 community-driven transportation initiatives to explore or address transportation challenges on Vancouver Island and in the coastal region. The ministry will continue to work to explore improved intercity transportation options on Vancouver Island.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth  
Minister

Copy to: George Anderson  
MLA, Nanaimo-Lantzville