

Fraser Valley Integrated Transportation and Development Plan: Rail Pre-Feasibility Study – Terms of Reference

Dec 4, 2020

Context

Through work on the Fraser Valley Integrated Transportation Development Plan, it has been identified that existing rail corridors across the Fraser Valley may present an opportunity to introduce commuter rail services to link key towns, communities and cities in the Fraser Valley.

As an initial task, a Rail Capacity Study was initiated to examine the condition of corridors and existing traffic volumes across rail networks in the Valley. Work completed under the Capacity Study includes:

- Collection and review of existing documentation
- Preparation of a summary of current rail network through the Fraser Valley (including capacity, condition, proposed expansion/enhancements underway, and information gaps).

This work to understand the current utilization and condition of these corridors is a first step in identifying which corridors may be best suited to supporting passenger service.

Recommended Next Steps: Initiate a Pre-Feasibility Study for Rail in the Fraser Valley.

Based on the initial findings from the rail capacity study, the Fraser Valley portions of the rail corridor known as the Interurban corridor and parts of the CN corridor would merit further analysis to determine the potential for introduction of commuter rail services.

The proposed Pre-Feasibility Study will provide an initial assessment of issues and options relative to technology, geography, environment, planning and growth, socio-economic benefits and risks, and build an initial set of feasibility parameters regarding rail solutions in the Fraser Valley.

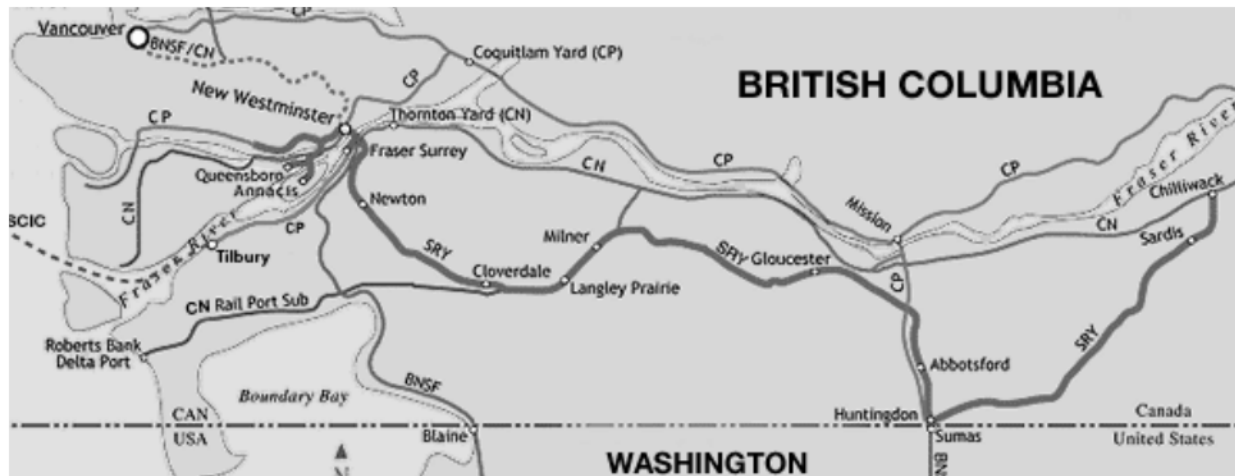


Figure 1- Rail Lines Within Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley - Source SRY

Scope of Work:

The following outlines the scope of work required to further the development and understanding of rail opportunities available in the Fraser Valley.

Tasks

- Assess the growth and development patterns of the region for corridor compatibility, in conjunction with findings from the Rail Capacity Study
- Shortlist candidate corridor sections for prioritization that support policy priorities, growth forecasts, and alignment with other plans and objectives
- Undertake a socio-economic review and benefit analysis of identified corridors
- Undertake a high-level ridership analysis based on existing data
- Identify the levels of service that would generate both demand and be operationally sound from a cost benefit point of view
- Identify and review technologies that have potential to work within these corridors
- Review potential partnerships with other sectors (Port of Vancouver, TransLink, CN Rail) to support mutually beneficial opportunities

► Deliverable: Pre-Feasibility Report of Rail Opportunities in the Fraser Valley

Estimated Hours and Budget

See attached Budget and Hours Sheet

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s.17 ; s.21

FRASER VALLEY INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Rail Capacity Availability Overview and Analysis:

Proposed Study Terms of Reference

November 2020

CONFIDENTIAL



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure



Deloitte.

Fraser Valley Rail Capacity Availability Overview and Analysis: Study Terms of Reference

Nov 2, 2020

The Fraser Valley Integrated Transportation and Development Plan (FVITDP) study, initiated by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in the spring of 2020, is undertaking a comprehensive analysis of multi-modal transportation systems in the Fraser Valley with the objective of developing potential options to support people and goods movement for this growing region of British Columbia.

As a result of initial work completed for the FVITDP, it was recognized that to better understand rail opportunities for the Valley, there is a need to develop a comprehensive analysis of both the overall existing rail network freight and passenger capacities, along with the throughput and forecasts for freight on these main rail corridors throughout the Fraser Valley, as well as across Metro Vancouver as many corridors start/terminate in the region.

Importantly, forecasts for the next couple of years, as well as the recent West Coast Express (WCE) study by TransLink, need to be integrated into a more comprehensive picture of capacity and corridor conditions to enable the FVITDP study to better understand how to:

- a. Continue discussions with the key stakeholders (Railways, TransLink, Ports, Municipalities);
- b. Integrate rail opportunities into the broader FVITDP study as it is developed; and,
- c. Develop understanding to inform discussions with various other stakeholders and public engagements.

The following provides a proposed scope of work and estimate of the required hours to undertake this task.

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Fraser Valley Integrated Transportation Development Plan

Rail Capacity Overview & Analysis Terms of Reference

Appendix 1 – Background Reports and Data List

November 2, 2020

1. West Coast Express Strategy (2013-2041)
2. Regional Industrial Lands Strategy (Metro Vancouver) (June 2020)
3. Fraser River Trade Area Multi-Modal Transportation Network Planning Study (Sept 2016)
4. BC Transit's Strategic Plan 2020-2025
5. Strategic Review of Transit in the Fraser Valley (Foundational Paper #1 through #4)
6. Strategic Review of Transit in the Fraser Valley (Summary)
7. Transit Future Plan (Chilliwack Area)
8. Transit Future Action Plan, Central Fraser Valley Transit System
9. Roberts Bank Trade Area Study (Executive Summary)
10. Roberts Bank Rail Corridor: road/Rail Interface Study (2007)
11. Transport 2050 - 2013 Regional Transportation Strategy Progress Report
12. Regional and Inter-Regional Rail Study – Considerations for Transport 2050 (April 2020)
(Conf)
13. T2050 Interregional Connections: Summary of TL work for the Province (April 2020)
(Conf)
14. FV Transportation Assessment – Regional context Summary (Draft) (June 2020)
15. FV Transportation Assessment – Final (July 2020)
16. Central FV Transit System (Dec 2018)
17. Abbotsford Transportation and Transit Final Master Plan
18. Abbotsford-Mission Transit Future Plan (Jan 2013)
19. FV Future 2014-2041 Regional Growth Strategy (Draft July 2014)
20. Interurban Line (Commuter Rail) (Document/Project Summary)