

## **Island Rail Is there a future?**

VIA Passenger Service  
Discontinued

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## **The Problem Railroad noncompliance**

- Passenger service has been discontinued
- Railroad condition must be brought up to compliance for service to be restored
- Annual \$1million maintenance budget is not enough to stop rail deterioration
- Without passenger service revenues we risk losing freight service and our rail operator – Southern Rail

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## **Situational Analysis**

- Proposed VIA service enhancements
- Nanaimo Heritage Station
- Johnson St Bridge - Victoria
- Intercity passenger service
- Trail & Rail improvements
- SVI operational contract
- \$15 million infrastructure request

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## **Proposed VIA Rail Service enhancements**

- Relocate main terminus to Nanaimo
- Early morning southbound service
- New passenger cars March 2012
- VIA President meetings – report
- Decision - federal gov' t & VIA Rail
- Direct service benefit of \$15M infrastructure investment

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## **Nanaimo Heritage Station**

- Total project \$2.4 million
- At lock up stage
- Offer to lease with Irish pub
- Securing mortgage funding - \$1.1M
- Opening late summer 2011

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## **Johnson St Bridge Victoria**

- Victoria will not reconstruct rail bridge in current bridge plan
- Relocating station in Vic West
- VIA passenger service concerns
- CRD & Victoria were investigating regional cost sharing for rail bridge

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### **Intercity Passenger Service Cowichan - Victoria**

- ICF, BC Transit, CRD, Victoria, Esquimalt, View Royal, Langford
- Train two from Cowichan to Victoria – AM
- AM & PM runs Victoria – Langford
- Business case under development

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### **Trail & Rail Improvements**

- Esquimalt - Admirals Rd Crossing - \$5M
- View Royal - Four mile bridge - \$4M
- Langford – BC Transit exchange - \$2M
- Cobble Hill – new station stop - \$110K
- Trail improvements – approx \$17M through: CRD, Cowichan Valley RD, RDN, Comox Valley RD
- Four year maintenance approx \$4Million spent including 20,000 ties replaced – Vic Sub

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### **SVI Operating Contract Fees**

- 25 years @ 3% growth of current revenues
- Track license fees - \$8,575,000
- Railway Capital Fund - \$2,195,588
- Track maintenance - \$58,453,935
- FN Development Fund - \$240,000
- Total SVI contribution - \$69,464,523

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### **\$15M infrastructure request Canada/British Columbia**

- \$12.5M to replace 104,400 ties Courtenay to Victoria (nothing for Alberni sub)
- \$2M track re-ballasting and surfacing
- \$500K Bridge engineering assessment
- Work Program 12 months to complete
- 164 direct & indirect jobs
- \$7.7M in wages and salaries
- Secures approx 30 full time rail crew jobs

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### **Government Presentations And Challenges**

- Federal Minister of Transportation
- Provincial Minister of Transportation
- President of VIA Rail
- BCLiberal leadership
- Federal Election

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### **Future of Island Rail at Stake**

- VIA passenger service will not be restored until substantive railroad improvements are completed.
- Freight service may end as a result of lost passenger service revenues
- After 125 years Island rail service may end without \$15M infrastructure investment

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### **Recommended Action**

- The AVICC to pass an emergency resolution asking the federal and provincial governments to restore the VIA passenger service by immediately approving the \$15 million infrastructure application.
- Each council and regional district to write the Prime Minister, Premier, federal and provincial ministers of transportation, President of VIA Rail, Island MP' s and MLA' s and all Island federal candidates

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