Island Rail
Is there a future?
VIA Passenger Service
Discontinued

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

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

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

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

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
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

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

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

$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

Government Presentations And Challenges  
• Federal Minister of Transportation  
• Provincial Minister of Transportation  
• President of VIA Rail  
• BCLiberal leadership  
• Federal Election

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
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