

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2024

CVRD approves removal of transit shelters in Duncan and North Cowichan

DUNCAN, BC – On April 10, 2024 the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board approved the removal of the transit shelters and benches at Village Green Mall and on James Street by Cowichan Secondary School, due to the misuse of the transit shelters for non-transit activities.

CVRD transit staff have been attending to numerous complaints from transit customers, businesses and the Cowichan transit operating company (Transdev,) regarding misuse of the transit shelters in the core area. The complaints are in regards to open drug and alcohol use, unsightly conditions, loitering and unhoused individuals using the transit shelters as a place to stay. On many days transit customers are not able to access the transit shelters for their intended purposes.

To address the safety concerns for transit customers, the transit shelters will be removed as soon as possible, with the intent to have them reinstalled at other appropriate locations in the transit system. The Board acknowledges this may inconvenience transit riders, but felt the removal of these shelters was required for the accessibility and safety of transit riders, and for the safeguarding of transit infrastructure.

The CVRD Board also reiterated their commitment to advocating for Provincial assistance and resources to address the safety concerns at the transit shelters, lack of housing and the impacts of the unhoused population in communities. In addition, the Board will be forwarding a letter to other local governments requesting their support to raise awareness of the negative collateral effects of the housing and addiction crisis on local government's ability to continue to provide services to the general public, such as transit shelters.

For more information, please contact:

Kris Schumacher
Manager, Communications & Engagement
Kris.schumacher@cvrd.bc.ca
250.701.2631