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Changes coming to Campbell River's transit routes this spring

There will be more options for people travelling by bus around downtown and to the hospital this spring.

"In response to community concerns, Council has made it very clear to BC Transit that continued improvements are required, and BC Transit has been working on a number of long-term improvements to the local transit service since system changes were initiated in September of 2017," says Drew Hadfield, the City's director of operations.

The City has requested changes to route seven to increase service along Ironwood Street and provide improved access to Discovery Shopping Centre. Stops will be added along this route to provide better service for people, particularly seniors, living in this area. The route will continue to serve the Discovery Shopping Centre in an extended loop.

Route changes to add service along Ironwood are expected to be in place the third week of April 2019.

"It takes time to implement changes because they affect other routes," Hadfield explains. *"More stops and a loop through the shopping centre adds seven minutes of travel to route seven, and other connecting routes must be slightly modified so people can continue to transfer easily to other routes."*

BC Transit and City staff are also working with Island Health to reroute bus traffic through the hospital parking lot to drop off and pick up people at the front door.

"This was part of the original transportation plan for the hospital, and this change will happen as soon as possible," Hadfield says.

Adjusting the hospital stop will keep the bus route on Birch Street as it travels toward Merecroft, which will offer better access to the Alder Medical Clinic.

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