

Goal 3

Coordinate Land Use and Mobility

Indicator #8—Per capita transit use

Why is this indicator important?

Public transit is an energy efficient alternative to the personal automobile, as it can carry more passengers with less fuel consumption per person. Transit is also a more accessible form of transportation to persons with varying abilities and incomes. The RGS directs the RDN and its member municipalities to create communities and land use patterns that support cost-effective and efficient transit service.

What does this indicator tell us?

This indicator tells us the average number of transit rides per person in the RDN (municipalities and Electoral Areas). Transit use tends to be higher in areas with higher population density, which makes systems more accessible and efficient to operate. Travel by transit produces less greenhouse gases than by private vehicle.

Where do we want to go?

The RGS directs the RDN and member municipalities to establish land use patterns that support transit service. Cost-efficient and frequent transit service is possible in compact communities where the ridership is living in close proximity to bus stops.

Target: Increase per capita transit use

What is included in this indicator?

This indicator includes total transit rides on RDN buses annually. The indicator also includes the total rides for Gabriola Island's Community Bus Service GERTIE (Gabriola's Environmentally Responsible Trans-Island Express). The population in the RDN increased from 146,574 in 2011 to 155,698 in 2016 according to Statistics Canada. The 2016 census of population is used to report transit rides per capita for the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, whereas the 2011 population was used for all previous reporting years.

Where are we right now?

Since 2016, the number of bus rides has increased in the region. In 2011-12, there were 2,614,421 rides taken in the RDN (excluding rides for GERTIE), while in 2017-18 the number has increased to 3,093,311 rides (including rides for GERTIE). Per capita rides have increased from 17.8 in 2011-12 to 19.8 in 2017-18.

Progress on the target has been made as increases in rides per capita and overall ridership have increased in the last two years indicating that the relationship between land use and access to transit are moving in the right direction.

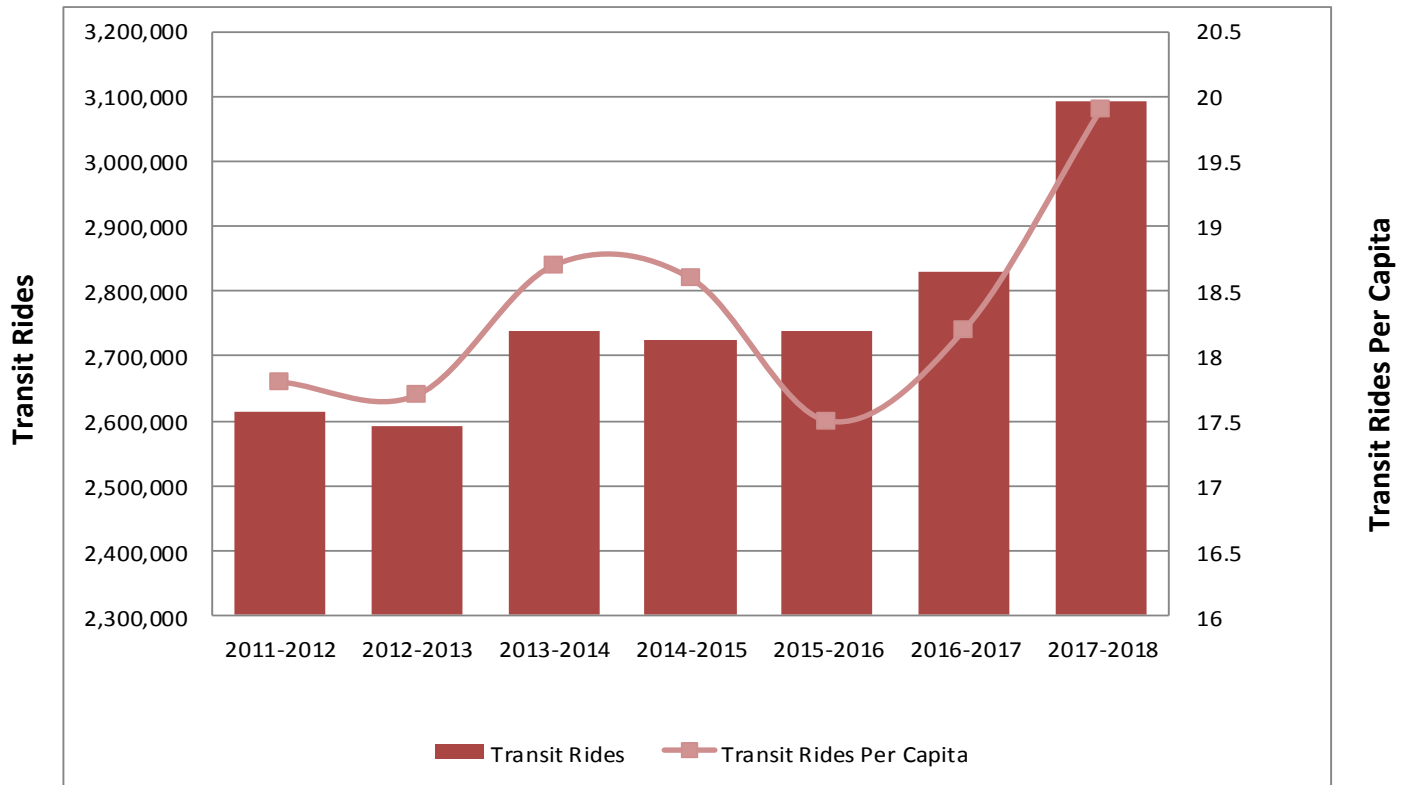


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Target: Increase per capita transit use

Total and Per Capita Transit Rides within the RDN



Year	Transit Rides	Transit Rides Per Capita
2011-2012	2,614,421	17.8
2012-2013	2,593,016	17.7
2013-2014*	2,739,904	18.7
2014-2015*	2,725,378	18.6
2015-2016	2,737,848	17.5
2016-2017*	2,830,691	18.2
2017-2018*	3,093,311	19.8

*Numbers include GERTIE (Gabriola’s Environmentally Responsible Trans-Island Express)

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Every reasonable effort has been made to use comparable data with consistent geographies and methodology. Where data limitations exist, these are noted within the document content, chart or table. For further details of the results, please refer to the RGS Annual Reports for information: <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/rgs-progress-reports>