

TRENDS ANALYSIS: TRANSIT

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the percentage of developed properties (with registered addresses) in the region that are within one kilometre of a fixed route operated by BC Transit. Spatial data for this indicator were provided by BC Transit and analysed by the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre.

Public transit provides an important service to Basin-Boundary residents who cannot, or prefer not to, drive to the places where they live, work, go to school or recreate. Since users of transit often include vulnerable citizens, transit services encourage inclusive communities. Public transit also enables energy-efficient commuting, which can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Note that this indicator only considers fixed transit services—those that operate on a set schedule with a predictable route. Some Basin-Boundary transit systems also include handyDART services, which offer flexible schedules and routing to meet the needs of residents who cannot otherwise access conventional services.

What are the trends & current conditions?

Overall, almost 68% of developed properties in the Basin-Boundary region are within one kilometre of a fixed transit route. However, service levels vary widely across the region (figure 1). The West Kootenay corridor has the highest level of transit service, with over 80% of properties located close to transit. Service levels are lowest in the Boundary corridor (30%) and in the Valemount corridor, where no fixed transit routes exist. Statistics Canada (2013) found that only 2.7% of Basin-Boundary residents use public transit to travel to work, which is significantly lower than BC as a whole (12.6%). Only one Basin-Boundary census subdivision, Elkford, showed a rate of transit use (33.2%) that was higher than the BC average.

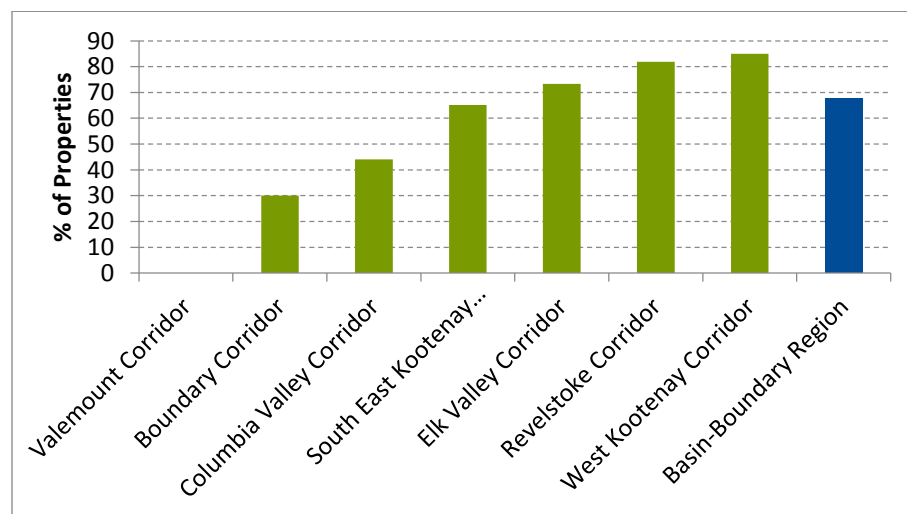


Figure 1: Percentage of developed properties within 1 km of a fixed transit route, 2014.

Source: Data – BC Transit (2013); Analysis – Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.

References

BC Transit. (2013). Transit Routes [Spatial Dataset].

Statistics Canada. (2013). National Household Survey Profile [Census Subdivision Profiles]. Retrieved from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>.