



May 30, 2016

Ref: 167601

His Worship Mayor Gregor Robertson
Chair
Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation
400 – 287 Nelson's Court
New Westminster, BC V3L 0E7

Dear Chair Robertson:

I am pleased to confirm that the Province of British Columbia has committed \$246 million to support public transit in the Metro Vancouver region. I am confident that this, in conjunction with the Federal Government's contribution, will allow the region to move forward with the \$740 million of immediate Phase One transit investments as per the Mayors' Council vision. This delivers significant benefits to the entire TransLink service region and also begins to lay the foundation as all parties work towards the full 10 year transportation plan.

The Province is also committed to working with the region to find innovative ways to leverage investments in transit to develop new housing, critically important to improving housing supply and addressing affordability in Metro Vancouver. We know that public transit investment results in increased property values along transit corridors, and the Province wants to work with the Mayors' Council to explore ways to help ensure that the public receives a benefit from land development in those areas. This can happen through higher density allocations, which in turn gives rise to new and increased supply in housing. As we consider next steps, I have requested that my Deputy Minister, Ms. Jacqueline Dawes, work with the Mayors' Council to identify the opportunities and the potential mechanisms to capture the significant benefits which we believe can accrue to the region. To help us move forward, I respectfully request that you provide a primary point of contact as soon as possible. Ms. Dawes may be reached by email at: Jacquie.Dawes@gov.bc.ca.

With **the increased funding** now committed by the Province, we are building on our previous commitment to fund one-third of the major rapid transit projects identified in the vision, and doing our part to make sure that an opportunity for Phase One federal funding does not pass the region by.

This funding demonstrates that our government is committed to transit improvements and expansion in Metro Vancouver. We recognize that these investments are vital for economic growth and play an important role in supporting the development of compact, mixed-use, livable communities. The Province is eager to move forward. To this end, we will be working with our federal partners as we develop the necessary **bilateral funding agreement** as soon as possible, and I look forward to also working with the Mayors' Council to confirm the details of our respective funding commitments.

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The Province also recognizes that the Mayors' Council continues to seek changes to the governance model in place for TransLink. As I have said previously, I am not prepared to consider changes to the structure at this time. Having said that, I also believe it is important that the Mayors' Council have an effective relationship with the TransLink Board. I suggest that the Mayors' Council work with the Board to explore greater opportunities for engagement, improve communication and strengthen the Mayors' confidence that the Board is appropriately guiding the operations of TransLink to the benefit of the region. For example, consideration could be given to greater access to the Board by individual Mayors, who may seek to attend board meetings, as non-voting members, but able to participate in discussions and have the opportunity to share their views. I encourage you to discuss these or any other ideas you may have with the Board chair, Mr. Don Rose.

Beyond these immediate steps, the Province also recognizes the imperative to advance discussions respecting Phase Two transit investments and the funding commitments needed by all levels of government to support them. We are eager to move into these discussions with our federal partners and with the Mayors' Council.

I want to reiterate the Province's appreciation for the work you have undertaken to this point, including the development of an appropriate vision for transit in the region, and the identification of potential revenue sources to support local capital and operating contributions. This work provides a sound basis for my Deputy Minister to work with you to develop a better understanding of some of the ideas you have identified, and to explore the significant development opportunities, which investments in transit will enable.

I look forward to working with you to fully realize the opportunity presented to us by the federal government, to ensure that important transit improvement projects get underway as soon as possible, and that the potential to leverage these investments to provide additional funding and housing supply sources for the region are explored.

Sincerely,



Peter Fassbender
Minister

pc: The Honourable Suzanne Anton, MLA
Vancouver—Fraserview

The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, MLA
Surrey—Cloverdale

The Honourable Rich Coleman, MLA
Fort Langley–Aldergrove

The Honourable Mary Polak, MLA
Langley

The Honourable Linda Reid, MLA
Richmond East

The Honourable Amrik Virk, MLA
Surrey–Tynehead

The Honourable Teresa Wat, MLA
Richmond Centre

The Honourable Andrew Wilkinson, MLA
Vancouver–Quilchena

The Honourable Naomi Yamamoto, MLA
North Vancouver–Lonsdale

Mr. Harry Bains, MLA
Surrey–Newton

Mr. Doug Bing, MLA
Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows

Mr. Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA
Vancouver–West End

Mr. Raj Chouhan, MLA
Burnaby–Edmonds

Ms. Kathy Corrigan, MLA
Burnaby–Deer Lake

Ms. Judy Darcy, MLA
New Westminster

Mr. Adrian Dix, MLA
Vancouver–Kingsway

Mr. David Eby, MLA
Vancouver–Point Grey

Ms. Mable Elmore, MLA
Vancouver–Kensington

Mr. Mike Farnworth, MLA
Port Coquitlam

Mr. Scott Hamilton, MLA
Delta North

Ms. Sue Hammell, MLA
Surrey–Green Timbers

Mr. George Heyman, MLA
Vancouver–Fairview

Mr. Gordon Hogg, MLA
Surrey–Whiterock

Mr. Marvin Hunt, MLA
Surrey–Panorama

Mr. Richard Lee, MLA
Burnaby North

Ms. Melanie Mark, MLA
Vancouver–Mount Pleasant

Mr. Bruce Ralston, MLA
Surrey–Whalley

Ms. Linda Reimer, MLA
Port Moody–Coquitlam

Ms. Selina Robinson, MLA
Coquitlam–Maillardville

Ms. Jane Jae Kyung Shin, MLA
Burnaby–Lougheed

Mr. Shane Simpson, MLA
Vancouver–Hastings

Ms. Moira Stilwell, MLA
Vancouver–Langara

Mr. Jordan Sturdy, MLA
West Vancouver–Sea to Sky

Mr. Sam Sullivan, MLA
Vancouver–False Creek

Mr. Ralph Sultan, MLA
West Vancouver–Capilano

Ms. Jane Thornthwaite, MLA
North Vancouver–Seymour

Ms. Jodie Wickens, MLA
Coquitlam–Burke Mountain

Mr. John Yap, MLA
Richmond–Steveston

Mr. Don Rose
Chair
TransLink Board of Directors