



November 5, 2019

Andrew Scheer
Leader, Conservative Party of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Sent via e-mail: andrew.scheer@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Scheer,

Congratulations on your re-election as the Member of Parliament for Regina-Qu'Appelle.

During the election campaign, the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation asked all parties to commit to introducing a permanent, direct federal funding mechanism for modern public transit — to keep Canada's cities moving, and ensure Canadians have sustainable and affordable transportation choices.

While we were disappointed that the Conservative Party platform did not include a commitment to creating a permanent transit fund or specific funding for Metro Vancouver's priority transit projects, we were encouraged that your party recognized the importance of continuing to invest in transportation infrastructure in order to reduce congestion for commuters.

Over the past four years, Metro Vancouver has benefited from a strong partnership between federal, provincial and regional governments which has seen historic investments in public transit in this region. Our transit plan -- the [10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation](#) -- is already underway, but despite significant improvements in service we can't keep up with demand.

Metro Vancouver is grappling with exploding transit ridership, our roads are increasingly congested, and we'll be adding another one million people in this region in the next 20 years. Between 2016 and the end of 2019, Metro Vancouver ridership will have grown by more than 20%.

Investment in transit is one of the most powerful things we can do to address climate change, reduce congestion and improve affordability, and voters in Metro Vancouver sent a strong message in this election that they expect the next federal government to continue to work together with the Province of B.C. and regional leaders to continue to focus on these urgent priorities.

Nowhere else in the country will you find a region more ready to get on with building transit infrastructure. Metro Vancouver has regional consensus among 23 communities and a supportive provincial government -- which creates ideal conditions for the federal government to make an immediate commitment to help us accelerate completion of the final phase of the 10-Year Vision, so we can avoid falling behind.

We are looking for a commitment in the Speech from the Throne to design, legislate and deliver a Permanent Transit Fund to put federal transit infrastructure funding on a long-term track. This will provide the certainty needed to plan for transit expansion that meets the needs of cities and communities into the 2030s.

However, while a permanent transit fund will help us meet demand in the future, we also need to move quickly to complete our current expansion plan to respond to soaring ridership growth. The Mayors' Council is therefore also seeking a federal commitment in the Speech from the Throne and subsequent budgets to the following projects in the final phase of the Vision:

- Complete the Surrey-Langley Skytrain project from Fleetwood to Langley
- Complete project planning and business case development to extend SkyTrain on Broadway from Arbutus to UBC
- Convert TransLink's bus fleet to emissions-free battery electric technology by 2040, with procurement to begin by 2023
- Build the Burnaby Mountain Gondola
- Accelerate the roll-out of the remaining bus expansion in the Vision including five new Rapid Bus lines serving the North Shore, Vancouver, Burnaby, Maple Ridge, Langley, White Rock, North Delta and Surrey.
- Complete the South of the Fraser rapid transit network along King George Boulevard and 104th Avenue in Surrey
- Complete modernization and capacity improvements to Canada Line, Expo Line West Coast Express, SeaBus and our bus maintenance facilities.
- Complete pre-engineering and planning studies for the next wave of rapid transit projects to be identified in the Transport 2050 plan, including projects within the region and connecting Metro Vancouver to commuters in the Fraser Valley and the Squamish-Whistler corridor.

Securing federal commitments to these projects will make it possible for us to bring rapid transit and rapid bus service closer to hundreds of thousands of commuters around the region. We will create seamless transportation connections between all of our major university campuses. And, we will ease traffic congestion by improving transit access in our fastest growing suburban communities.

By completing the 10-Year Vision and being more aggressive in electrifying TransLink's bus fleet, we can achieve a number of outcomes in partnership:

- reducing congestion;
- 80%+ reduction of GHG emissions from TransLink's operations
- diverting growth in emissions-intensive private automobile use towards emissions-free transit;
- improving access to affordable housing; and,
- supporting economic growth, including the efficient movement of goods in Canada's gateway to the Asia-Pacific.

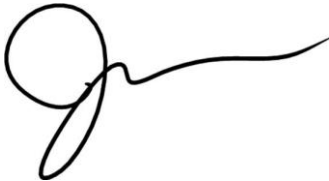
These are the outcomes our communities and Canada desperately need, and they were the impetus behind the Mayors' Council's [Cure Congestion](#) campaign, which engaged thousands of local voters and secured the support of a variety of stakeholders in industry, academia and the non-profit sector, in the lead up to the 2019 federal election. We plan to keep this campaign running, to ensure our local communities remain engaged on our most critical transportation issues.

As parliamentarians prepare to resume their work in the House of Commons, we are reaching out to you and to the Prime Minister and leaders of the NDP and Green Party to ask for more urgent action on public transit here in Metro Vancouver.

As a first step, I have asked Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart to play a lead role to coordinate the Mayors' Council's engagement with senior governments. The 23 members of the Mayors' Council will also be working to set up meetings with all elected MPs in Metro Vancouver.

The Mayors' Council will send a delegation to Ottawa ahead of the Speech from the Throne and we look forward to meeting with you at that time. Thank you in advance for working with us and for making public transit in Metro Vancouver a priority for the new government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a long, horizontal flourish.

Mayor Jonathan X. Côté
Chair

cc. Hon. John Horgan, Premier, Province of B.C.
Hon. Selina Robison, Minister Responsible for TransLink, Province of B.C.
Councillor Bill Karsten, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Members of the Mayors' Council and TransLink Board

Attached: *Key Capital Projects Remaining in 10-Year Vision*



BACKGROUND

10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit & Transportation Remaining Capital Projects

"Phase Three Plan" Projects remaining in the 10-Year Vision	Est. Capital Cost
Complete the Surrey-Langley Skytrain project from Fleetwood to Langley	\$1.63B
Advance project planning for UBC SkyTrain on Broadway from Arbutus to UBC	\$50M
Convert TransLink's bus fleet to emissions-free battery electric technology by 2040, with procurement to begin by 2023	\$450M
5 new Rapid Bus Corridors	\$450M
Burnaby Mountain Gondola	\$200M
Rapid Transit to connect Newton and Guildford to Surrey City Centre	\$450M
Canada Line, Expo Line, SeaBus and West Coast Express station modernization, upgrades and capacity improvements	\$650M
Increase regional bus service capacity with additional bus depot	\$400M
Pre-engineering and planning studies for the next wave of rapid transit projects	\$10M

For more information, please contact Mike Buda, Executive Director, TransLink Mayors' Council Secretariat at: (604) 307-2839 or mike.buda@mayorscouncil.ca

Remaining Capital Projects in 10- Year Vision

