



Metro Mayors Ready to Move Forward on 10-Year Regional Transportation Plan

Federal, regional funding committed and ready for Plan implementation; Mayors waiting for BC government to follow through on funding commitment

May 26, 2016 (Vancouver, BC) - Metro Vancouver Mayors are ready and willing to fund their fair share of the 10-year Transit and Transportation Plan, and are awaiting a formal proposal from the Province to move forward in partnership to leverage significant - and time limited - federal dollars available for transportation improvements.

Last month, the Mayors' Council [submitted a formal proposal to Premier Christy Clark](#) outlining a funding strategy that included a variety of provincial and regional funding sources, and proposed changes to TransLink governance that would put accountability for transit and transportation more squarely in the hands of Mayors.

“The federal government clearly and definitively re-iterated its commitment to funding 50% of the Mayors' Council's 10-Year Regional Transportation Plan, and Metro Vancouver Mayors are ready to put shovels in the ground for urgently needed transportation improvements in the region,” says Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, Chair of the Mayors' Council. “Mayors have heard loud and clear from all 21 communities in Metro Vancouver that new funding for transportation improvements and accountability for managing those dollars go hand in hand. The Mayors' Council put fair options on the table for the BC government to consider that would allow us to immediately get moving on transportation projects that will make it easier for residents to move around the region.”

The Mayors' Council proposed several funding options for provincial and regional contributions towards the 10-Year Plan's costs.

Local Metro Vancouver contributions would amount to over \$5.0 billion - 17% of the project's capital costs, plus 100% of operating costs - and would be generated from a combination of:

- A one-time, two per cent transit fare increase in 2018, plus additional revenue from expanded service (\$550 million over 10 years)
- Selling TransLink surplus properties (at least \$100 million)
- A New Regional Development Cost Charge for Transit at a fair, affordable rate (\$15-\$20 million annually)
- Average \$3 per household increase to property taxes, region-wide (\$340 million over 10 years)
- A portion of the region's Gas Tax Fund (\$400 million over 10 years)
- Introduction of regional mobility pricing by 2021 to support the expansion and improvement of road and bridge infrastructure
- Land in kind from Vancouver and Surrey to help offset costs for major projects like the Broadway Subway and Surrey Light Rail

In return, the Province of BC would contribute:

- \$3 billion over 10-15 years for a 33% share of capital costs of the 10-Year Plan



- Redistribute and return \$50 million in Provincial Carbon Tax subsidy provided to households outside Metro Vancouver back to the region to fund transportation improvements (or another provincially-controlled regional revenue source)
- Support for the Mayors' Council's efforts to implement regional mobility pricing
- Return governance of TransLink to Mayors

“Metro Vancouver needs a commitment from all levels of government for comprehensive, long-term funding that will allow us to move quickly on major, multi-year projects like the Broadway Subway, Surrey LRT, and the roll-out of new B-Line express bus service across the region,” says Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner, Vice-Chair of the Mayors' Council. “Regional Mayors have embraced this approach, and it's time to hear if the Province is ready to work with us to secure these time-limited federal dollars for the 10-Year Plan. Limiting provincial funding to short-term projects is not only short-sighted, it would cost our region billions of dollars in the long run as pressure on our roads and transportation becomes more crippling.”

The Mayors' Council 10-Year Regional Transportation Plan would see immediate and comprehensive transit and transportation improvements, including: a Broadway subway; 27-km of light rail transit in Surrey; replacing the Pattullo Bridge; 11 new B-Line bus routes; a 25% increase in regional bus service, including more all-day and night bus routes; 50% more seabus service; service upgrades to the Expo, Millenium and Canada Lines; 30% more HandyDART service; and 27% more West Coast Express service. These improvements would mean 70% of Metro residents would be within walking distance of at least one all day bus route, and will cut congestion by one third.

- 30 -

Media Contacts:

Katie Robb
Vancouver Mayor's Office
778.918.7973

Oliver Lum
Mayor's Office, City of Surrey
604.591.4519