Minutes of the In-Camera Meeting of the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation (Mayors’ Council) held on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation adopts the agenda for the In-Camera meeting, scheduled August 22, 2017, as circulated.  

CARRIED

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation authorizes the attendance of TransLink Board and staff members at the August 22, 2017 In-Camera meeting.  

CARRIED

It was MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS the new Provincial Government has publicly committed to removing tolls from the Port Mann Bridge and Golden Ears Bridge;

WHEREAS the Province of BC has indicated it has set a target date of September 1, 2017 to remove Port Mann Bridge and Golden Ears Bridge tolls, and wants to announce this decision by August 25, 2017;

WHEREAS the Province of BC has requested that TransLink enter into negotiations regarding removal of Golden Ears Bridge tolls, and intends to enter into an agreement before August 25, 2017 that will compensate TransLink for foregone projected Golden Ears Bridge toll revenues until a longer term alternative arrangement is agreed by the Province, Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation and TransLink Board of Directors to address the impacts to TransLink’s financial forecasts and strategies for the Golden Ears Bridge as a result of toll removal;

WHEREAS in order to remove Golden Ears Bridge tolls, the TransLink Board of Directors will need to amend the Golden Ears Bridge tolling bylaw to reduce the toll rate to $0 and will replace projected toll revenue with provincial grants provided through an agreement with the Province of BC;

WHEREAS the 2017 Investment Plan approved by the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation includes the imposition of Golden Ears Bridge tolls and relies on revenues and traffic demand management from Golden Ears Bridge tolls;

WHEREAS the TransLink Board of Directors wishes to consult with the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation before entering into an agreement with the Province of BC on Golden Ears Bridge tolls, given that the 2017 Investment Plan approved by the Mayors’ Council includes the imposition of Golden Ears Bridge tolls; and
WHEREAS the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation has long identified mobility pricing as its preferred approach for managing transportation demand and supporting investments in the transportation network over the current tolling regime, and has launched a Mobility Pricing Independent Commission to develop recommendations for all governments on how to implement this approach.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation does not object to the TransLink Board of Directors reducing the Golden Ears Bridge toll rate to $0, which will be fully compensated by the Province of BC under a one-year agreement subject to extension, pending successful negotiation of a long term agreement with the Province of BC, TransLink and the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation remains committed to the concept of mobility pricing as the fairest, most effective approach to managing demand on the regional transportation network, and expects the Province of BC to remain open to considering the recommendations of the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission.

CARRIED