



Transport 2050

Draft Regional Transportation Strategy
Summary Document

TRANSPORT
2050

Shape the future of
how we move. And live.

The 2050 We want: Access for Everyone

Imagine a future where getting around Metro Vancouver is easy.

Where we all have convenient transportation choices. That are reliable, affordable, safe, and comfortable. Where everyone has access to transportation options that don't contribute to climate change. So that both current and future generations can enjoy a healthy environment.

Imagine a future where we can ensure *Access for Everyone*. Where every person in Metro Vancouver, no matter who they are, where they live, or how they choose to get around, can easily connect to the opportunities they need to thrive. Because our lives, the future of our region, and its economy, depend on a sustainable, effective, and efficient transportation system that works for everyone.

To realize our vision of *Access for Everyone*, we need to understand that every single person in Metro Vancouver is unique. And that they can face different struggles and barriers that make moving and living in the region more or less challenging.

To create a fairer and more just and inclusive transportation system that truly delivers on the promise of *Access for Everyone*, we need to take steps to support these struggles.

The transportation future we want is one where no one gets left behind.

OUR TRANSPORTATION VISION

Everyone can easily connect to the people, places, and opportunities that they need to thrive – because we all have real transportation choices, that we can count on, that we can afford, and that we can safely enjoy. Our transportation system supports an inclusive, future-ready region that advances reconciliation.

Transport 2050: Our Roadmap for the Next 30 Years

Transport 2050 is the new Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Metro Vancouver. Designed to be flexible in an era of rapid change, Transport 2050 is our roadmap for the next 30 years. It identifies projects, services, and policies to make transportation better for everyone.

Transport 2050 was developed in collaboration with residents, municipalities, Metro Vancouver, the Province, and stakeholders, and through engagement with Indigenous Nations and groups. As a shared strategy, it reflects a common vision for the future of transportation in Metro Vancouver. This includes connections beyond the region, which are critical to the social and economic well-being of the province.

We Are a Region That Shapes Our Own Future

This is a crucial moment: the choices we make today will influence how we move and live for decades to come. But we also need to remain nimble, so that we can be resilient to whatever the future might bring. From disruptive new technologies, to pandemics, to extreme natural events, external forces and events have the potential to upend life in the region. Especially in our increasingly globally connected region and economy. It's our responsibility to ensure the future transportation system thrives in a world of shocks and disruptions.

PLANNING THE FUTURE

As an integrated, multi-modal transportation authority, TransLink plans Metro Vancouver's transportation system. TransLink also led the development of Transport 2050. Whether you walk, bike, roll, transit, or drive, Transport 2050 will shape how you get around. The strategy also lays out a path for goods movement. So that we can keep building a sustainable economy in a growing region.

Leveraging Technology – for the Benefit of Everyone

Technology can help transform the region for the better. But only if we make it so. We only need to look to history to know that major unforeseen disruptions, such as in the form of new technologies, can come suddenly, bringing major benefits and consequences.

We're living in an era of rapid change and disruption and are on the cusp of some dramatic evolutions in technology. Automation could touch every part of transportation, and **automated vehicles** could be carrying a majority of personal trips within the time horizon of this strategy. Similarly, **digital connectivity**, **electric vehicles**, and urban **air mobility** technologies are either already here or are gaining traction. These technologies all hold out promise to make it easier to connect to opportunity, reduce carbon pollution, or bypass congestion. They are also redefining how goods are moved and delivered.

However, these transport revolutions bring with them risks and unanticipated consequences that need to be managed carefully, so that they work in support of our vision. Reducing social inequality, addressing the climate emergency, and supporting vibrant, compact, and livable people-oriented cities and streets.

This means asking how new technologies can support — and not replace — the most sustainable modes of walking, biking, rolling, and transit.





The Region has Work To Do: Challenges and Opportunities

Like all places, the region faces challenges that affect our quality of life, our economy, and our environment.

Not the least of which includes recovering from **COVID-19**. The pandemic has touched all of our lives, impacting our physical, mental, and social wellbeing, harming our economy, and accentuating social inequalities. While Transport 2050 is a long-range strategy, the pandemic does inform our present reality and has accelerated some transportation trends we'll need to consider so we can build back better.

Reconciliation

Metro Vancouver sits on **traditional and unceded Indigenous territory**. Throughout our history, colonialism and racism have brought vast harms to Indigenous communities and peoples who have lived here since time immemorial. As the region evolves, we need to address how transportation planning has upheld this system of colonial power so that we can work towards reconciliation.

Equity

The gap between the haves — those with options for safe travel, affordable living, discrimination-free mobility, and access to places they need to go — and the have-nots continues to be a problem. If anything, recent events in the COVID-19 global pandemic have shone a light on **social inequality**. By improving transportation, we can help people thrive, no matter who they are, or what part of the region they call home.

Affordability

Metro Vancouver is an **unaffordable** region, with its expensive housing and lower incomes relative to comparable jurisdictions. Good transportation connections often increase housing prices as it makes the location more desirable. As expensive housing forces families to pursue more affordable homes in poorly connected or outlying parts of the region, they often have fewer transportation options — often requiring them to rely on cars for their daily needs. As we continue to invest in good transportation facilities and connections, communities can see displacement or gentrification, which can hurt the most vulnerable.

Congestion

Traffic congestion affects nearly everyone in Metro Vancouver, whether they travel by car, bus, bike, or foot. The result is frustration, time lost to traffic, and more air pollution and greenhouse gases. Congestion also leads to extra costs for goods movers, which erode our economic competitiveness, and end up on our grocery bill. To date, no region in the world, including ours, has built its way out of congestion, not even by providing more transit service. Tackling congestion will mean making tough choices.

Climate change

The global and local challenge of responding to the **climate emergency**, of which transportation is a prime contributor, calls for us to act urgently, at every level of government. Regional greenhouse gas emissions have basically remained stuck at the same level for a decade. Every year we fail to dramatically reduce them requires that we do even heavier lifting in future years, at higher costs, to reach the region's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

How We'll Act: Creating the Transportation Future We Want

To help create the future we want, Transport 2050 sets out five goals and headline targets and maps out the key strategies that are needed to get us there.

Theme	Access for Everyone				
	We all have real choices	that we can count on,	that we can afford,	that we can safely enjoy	for generations to come
Goals	1/Convenient Choices for Everyone	2/Reliable Choices for Everyone	3/Affordable Choices for Everyone	4/Safe & Comfortable Choices for Everyone	5/Carbon-Free Choices for Everyone
Headline Targets	By 2050, walking, cycling, and transit are competitive choices accounting for at least half of all passenger trips, with taxi, ride-hail and carsharing accounting for most of the remainder	We are all spending 20% less time stuck in congestion compared to today.	None of us need to spend more than 45% of our household income on housing & transport combined	Reduce serious traffic injuries and fatalities 5% annually until we reach zero by or before 2050	By 2030, lower carbon pollution from light-duty vehicles by 65% over 2010 levels; eliminate carbon pollution from transport altogether by 2050
Strategies <small>(key things we'll do to achieve each goal)</small>	1.1 Make active transport the convenient choice for most shorter trips	2.1 Make transit more reliable	3.1 Make living close to frequent transit more affordable	4.1 Eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries	5.1 Reduce the energy requirements of the transport system
	1.2 Make transit the most convenient choice for longer trips	2.2 Make goods movement more reliable	3.2 As a priority, invest in the most cost-effective and most affordable modes	4.2 Ensure everyone feels welcome, comfortable, and physically secure while getting around	5.2 Transition to zero-emissions vehicles
	1.3 For those who need to drive , help make it convenient and accessible	2.3 Make driving and parking more reliable	3.3 Ensure that transportation fees and taxes are affordable for everyone	4.3 Minimize transportation's adverse impacts on local communities	5.3 Support ready access to low carbon fuels for the transportation system
	1.4 Provide many different choices conveniently together in one piece	2.4 Maintain transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair	3.4 Help people and businesses connect to more economic opportunities	4.4 Safely respond to and recover from disruptions and disasters	5.4 Account for and reduce upstream and downstream emissions in the transportation system
Strategic Lenses <small>cross-cutting priorities</small>	Reconciliation				
	Social Equity				
	Resilience				

Transformative Actions

The strategies and actions outlined in Transport 2050 will be undertaken in partnership between local governments, TransLink, Metro Vancouver, the provincial and federal governments, Indigenous Nations, and other actors. Most of the over 100 actions proposed in Transport 2050 have the potential to fundamentally change how we live and get around in Metro Vancouver. We think the following 10 big actions will be especially transformative:



1. **Supporting walkable, complete, and affordable communities** where it's easy to access most of your daily needs within a kilometre of home and without having to drive.



2. Transforming roads that have been designed primarily for cars into **people-first streets** designed for everyone. Where all road users, including people with disabilities and people using transit, biking, walking, or rolling, feel safe, comfortable, and connected.



3. Implementing complete networks of **traffic-protected bikeways within every urban centre**, an 850-kilometre network of major bikeways connecting every urban centre, and abundant bicycle parking everywhere in order to provide active transportation and recreation options that are comfortable for most people to use.



4. Delivering **frequent local transit service** to within a 5-minute walk of nearly all communities within the urban parts of the region.



5. Serving more people in more parts of the region with **fast and reliable transit service** by adding approximately 300 kilometres to our existing 100-kilometre rapid transit network and working with partners to implement new express and interregional connections.



6. **Prioritizing the movement of transit** on roads through more extensive provision of dedicated transit lanes, priority at intersections, and sidewalk extensions at bus stops. This will enable transit users to quickly and reliably get to where they need to go without getting stuck in traffic. It will also allow us to achieve our bold vision for expanding the rapid transit network primarily in dedicated lanes at street level.



7. Expanding **shared mobility** options across the region so that no matter who you are, where you are, or where you need to go, you'll have access to a shared bike, e-scooter, or car when you want one.



8. Changing our vehicles and how we fuel them: we'll support the move to **zero-emission vehicles** with more charging options and make it easier to use electric bikes and other micromobility devices. Managing the safe and equitable introduction of **automated, connected, electrified, and shared vehicles** so that they work in support of our region's goals.



9. Using the power of new **digital tools** to work towards an efficient, reliable and easy-to-use transportation system. Where everything is seamlessly integrated, everyone can easily plan and make trips that involve multiple modes, curbside spaces are available when you need them, and traffic headaches are a thing of the past.



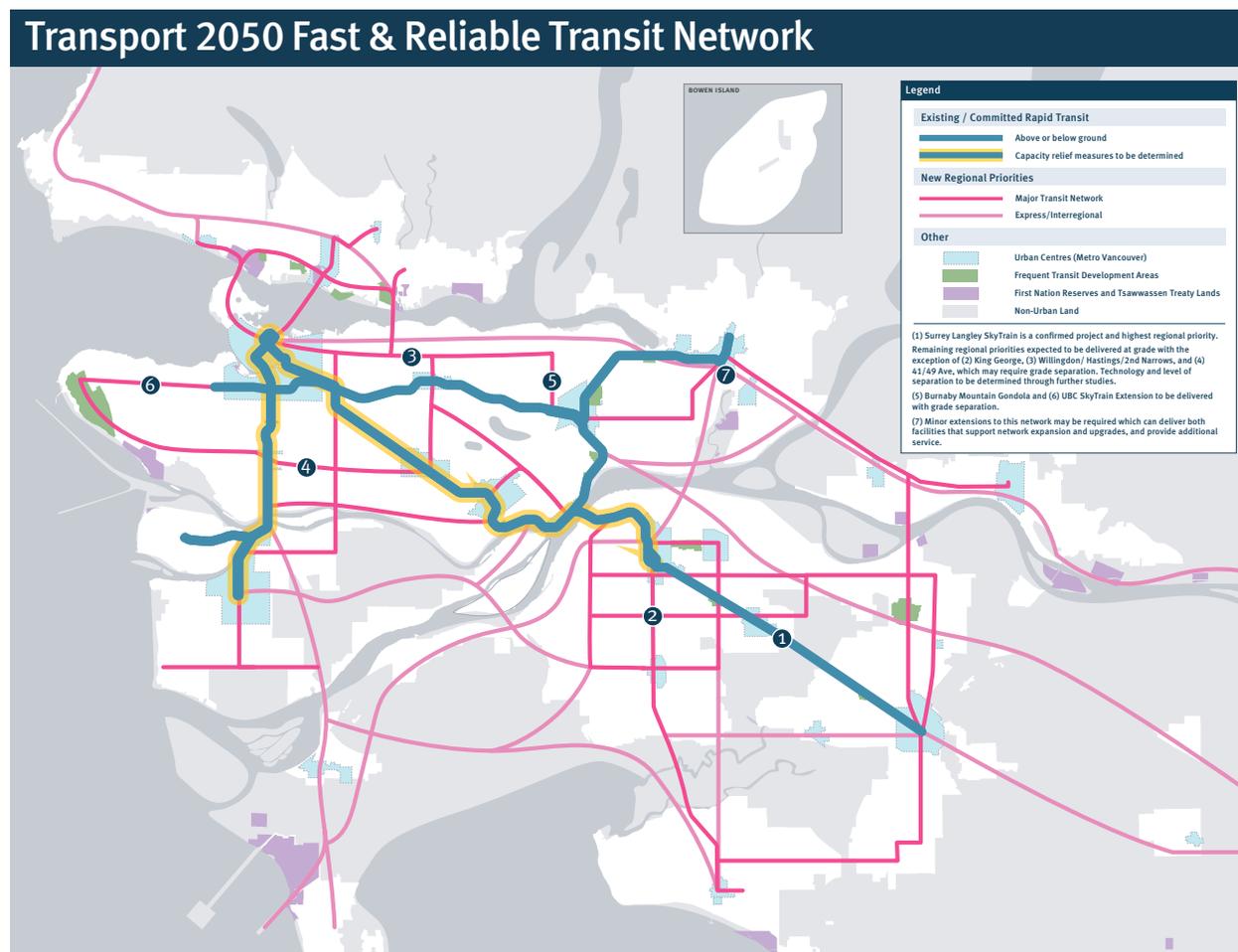
10. Ensuring that everyone can afford to get around, with a commitment to **universal basic mobility** where fares and fees are based on an individual's ability to pay.

New Networks

Fast and Reliable Transit Network

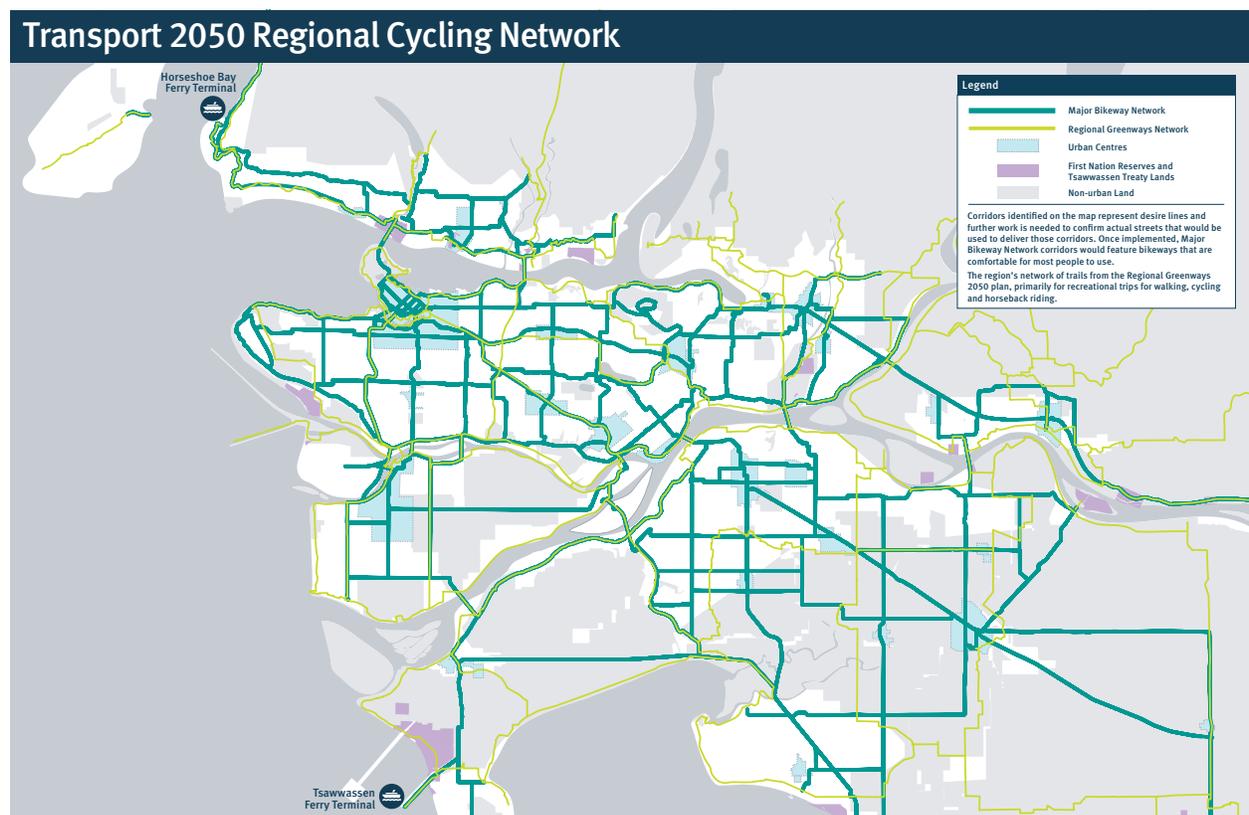
In Transport 2050, we're proposing a new transit network, called the Fast & Reliable Transit Network. This network would include the current rapid transit network (100 kilometres with the Surrey-Langley and Arbutus SkyTrain extensions, all served by SkyTrain). We would expand this network with approximately 300 more kilometres of rapid transit, delivered primarily at street level.

The Fast & Reliable Network also includes new or upgraded Express and Interregional Services, to make it easy to cross the region or get to places outside of Metro Vancouver.



Major Bikeway Network

As part of Transport 2050, we're proposing a Major Bikeway Network of approximately 850 kilometres, which builds on existing regional cycling networks, and connects urban centres and major destinations. Together, with the Regional Greenways Network, the Major Bikeway Network will be backbone of the region's future cycling network. Making it safer, more comfortable, and more convenient to get around by bike.



We're excited to start down this path towards our shared transportation future.

Tell us what you think about the draft strategy: visit transport2050.ca

Credit and thanks to the City of North Vancouver, City of Vancouver, and Town of Innisfil for providing select imagery.

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