

MEDIA RELEASE

## **Mayors' Council calls on senior governments to fund immediate climate action with \$447 million bus fleet electrification strategy**

*TransLink is shovel-ready with Low Carbon Fleet Strategy, awaiting senior government funding*

**February 27, 2020 (NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.)** – The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation has endorsed an aggressive roll-out of TransLink's Low Carbon Fleet Strategy to support quick action on climate change. This schedule will see half of all TransLink's diesel fleet converted to battery electric by 2030 and the remainder before 2050.

This option represents the fastest possible turn-over of the fleet to battery electric buses without retiring existing buses early. It achieves maximum greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions over the next 10 years.

- Incremental capital investment of \$447 million over and above the funding already secured and approved for conventional buses
- Open new Marpole Transit Centre as 100% depot charging with 280 chargers
- Expand an existing transit centre to accommodate electric buses
- Convert route 100 and other routes to full electric operation by installing on-route chargers
- Purchase 635 battery electric buses
- Including trolleys, 64% of transit buses electrified by 2030
- 2030 bus fleet GHG reduced by 44% compared to 2007
- Cost parity between battery electric and conventional fleets only achieved over the full lifecycle of the buses (15-20 years) due to the high upfront costs of installing recharging infrastructure

This ambitious plan will only be possible with financial support from senior governments. Mayors are requesting \$447 million in provincial and federal funding over 10 years to implement the strategy, with investment required by early 2021 to deliver the strategy as scheduled. This funding must be separate from investments in transit system expansion found in Phase Three Plan of the 10-Year Vision so that the climate change benefits of both strategies can be maximized.

In October 2018, the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board of Directors approved new environmental targets: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% and use only renewable energy in all operations by 2050. Metro Vancouver Regional District has committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 45% by 2030.

Mayors' Council Chair and New Westminister Mayor Jonathan Coté says our region will not reach its targets without this investment. "Transitioning the bus fleet to zero-emissions technology is an essential step, alongside continued expansion of transit service. Right now, TransLink is procuring new buses. If we buy internal combustion engines, they will be on the roads for over 15 years, dashing our chances of achieving meaningful GHG reduction from our own operations. The Low Carbon Fleet Strategy allows us to seize the opportunity and start the shift this year, but we need provincial and federal help to do it."

The Mayors' Council will continue working with provincial and federal leaders to make funding for the strategy, as well as for the Phase Three Plan of the 10-Year Vision scheduled for approval in early 2021, a priority.



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### **About the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation**

The Mayors' Council is composed of representatives from each of the 21 municipalities within the transportation service region in Metro Vancouver, as well as Electoral Area 'A' and the Tsawwassen First Nation, and collectively represent the viewpoints and interests of the citizens of the region. The Mayors' Council is responsible for appointing the majority of members on the TransLink Board of Directors. It approves transportation plans prepared by TransLink, which deal with transportation service levels, major capital projects, regional funding and borrowing limits. It also performs regulatory oversight functions related to short-term fares, customer survey and complaint processes, sale of major facilities and assets, and director and executive compensation levels.