

Media Backgrounder

Mayors' Council Calls for Federal Congestion Relief Fund

April 9, 2019

Congestion Relief Fund

The Mayors' Council is calling on all federal parties to commit to establishing a Congestion Relief Fund, to provide a permanent, predictable and direct federal fund that can be invested alongside local and provincial government commitments to transportation and transit.

- The Mayors' Council is joining municipalities nation-wide through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in calling for a permanent, predictable, direct federal funding mechanism for modern public transit across the country. This would translate to a national fund of \$3.4 billion annually starting in 2028.
- Such a fund, delivered on the basis of ridership, would deliver an estimated \$375 million annually to TransLink, starting in 2028. The fund would extend federal transit investments at historical levels beyond the expiry of the current federal programs.
- Canada lags our competitor nations in making long-term, sustained transit investments as part of a national strategy that recognizes the predominant role urban areas play in national priorities like economic growth, immigrant settlement, affordable housing, goods movement and export, and climate change action. Federal governments in Germany, New Zealand, Japan, France and the United States provide long-term, predictable sources for capital funding for transportation.

Cure Congestion campaign / www.curecongestion.ca

The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation's [federal election platform](#) calls on all major national parties to commit to work in partnership with local and provincial leaders to cure congestion in Metro Vancouver.

The Cure Congestion campaign will include the following activities:

- Opinion editorial published in the Ottawa Hill Times Infrastructure issue, April 10
- Mayors' Council delegation to Ottawa, early May
- Public engagement campaign starting late May – inviting Metro Vancouver residents to visit CureCongestion.ca to access tools to contact local MPs and federal election candidates
- A report card on the commitments made by all parties to cure congestion, September.

10-Year Vision / tenyearvision.translink.ca

Developed by the Mayors' Council in 2014, the 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation is a strategy designed to keep the region moving. The Vision is a transit and transportation plan that reflects agreement by 23 local governments across Metro Vancouver, and is supported by the largest coalition of community, environmental and business stakeholders in B.C.'s history.

The 10-Year Vision is unique in Canada. It's a region-wide, integrated plan – from transportation to light rail to bus to roads and bridges – that supports the 30-year [Regional Transportation Strategy](#) and Regional Growth Strategy.

The 10-Year Vision is being rolled out in phases, each timed to the planning and delivery of new projects and services. Phase One funded approximately \$2 billion in expanded transit services, transit infrastructure and improvements for roads, cycling, and walking, beginning in 2017. Phase Two funds an estimated \$7.3 billion of transportation improvements in the 10-Year Vision.

Completing all projects included in the 10-Year Vision will require a further investment of approximately \$9 billion (to be confirmed as TransLink develops the Phase Three Plan over the next year). In each phase, investments from the federal government and provincial government will be matched with regional revenues to ensure the 10-Year Vision is funded in a fair and balanced way.

10-Year Vision investments underway to date include:

- New buses and an 18 per cent increase in bus service.
 - New service areas in Burke Mountain, Clayton Heights, Morgan Creek, Willoughby, and Silver Valley, Brookwood, Albion, Thornhill, Harbourside, East Fraser Lands, Easter Fraser Heights, and 68th Avenue in Surrey.
- A third Seabus capable of carrying 385 people. With a peak period increase later this year from four to six trips hourly, this new vessel will provide space for 1,540 more passengers per hour.
- 26 new SkyTrain vehicles, each of which are designed to carry 532 people.
- Through expansion of the Major Road Network, 237 additional lane-kilometres of municipal roads are now eligible for operations, maintenance and rehabilitation funding throughout 2019 and 2020.

The remaining projects in the 10-Year Vision include:

- Completing the rapid transit network in Surrey and Langley
- Increasing bus and HandyDART service in every corner of the region
- Upgrading SkyTrain with increased frequency and section upgrades, and adding more West Coast Express cars
- Extending the Millennium Line from Arbutus to UBC
- Building 5 new high-capacity and high-frequency express bus routes in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge, Langley, White Rock, Surrey, North Vancouver, Burnaby and Vancouver
- Converting TransLink's bus fleet to electric vehicles to achieve our zero emissions targets, improve local air quality and reduce neighbourhood noise
- Increased funding for regional cycling and walking projects
- Improving road conditions through continued upgrades to the Major Road Network

A fully implemented 10-Year Vision will:

- Improve affordability and provide 1.5 million more people with transit service so frequent that a day schedule is not needed. This makes giving up a car more realistic for many, with savings of over \$10,000 per year;
- Reduce traffic congestion, allowing drivers and transit users to save 20-30 minutes per day on many of the region's most congested corridors;
- Save about 200 lives and prevent about 4,000 serious injuries every year due to road accidents;
- Translate to nearly \$350 million in health benefits for Metro Vancouver, a direct result of improvements in infrastructure that permit people in the region to incorporate more active transportation into their daily routines;
- Move both people and goods across Metro Vancouver more efficiently, resulting in over \$9 billion in regional and economic growth that supports jobs;
- Maintain our current carbon footprint even as the region grows by more than one million people.

Regional Transportation Strategy

The 30-year Regional Transportation Strategy will identify projects and services beyond the 10-Year Vision that are needed to respond to coming trends, challenges and priorities, potentially including higher capacity transit in areas currently underserved by rapid transit like the North Shore, the fast-growing south of Fraser area and the north-east sector.