

THE CONGESTION RELIEF FUND

A smart way to support quality of life and economic growth in Canada's cities

The Mayors' Council is joining municipalities nation-wide through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in asking all federal parties to commit to creating a permanent, predictable, direct funding mechanism for modern public transit across Canada - a **Congestion Relief Fund**.

As the order of government closest to Canadians' daily realities, municipalities know what's needed on the ground to deliver cost-effective solutions that protect and improve quality of life in our communities. As we build better infrastructure, services and communities, we're building better lives for Canadians.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

We know that investments in public transit make a big impact on our day-to-day quality of life. The Cure Congestion campaign isn't about asking for more money, it's about changing the way the federal government partners with communities on transportation infrastructure.

With a **Congestion Relief Fund**, we would have a constant, reliable stream of federal funding that takes into account not only transit and roads, but also housing and community services that balance the needs of our growing population, and that keep our communities liveable.

INVESTMENTS IN TRANSIT ARE INVESTMENTS IN PEOPLE

AFFORDABILITY AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

- Making smart investments in transportation will give residents and businesses more options and save them money. If we can make it easier to get around the region, residents will have better access to affordable housing and transportation.
- Completion of the 10-Year Vision will 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.
- For drivers, less time spent idling means less money spent on gas and maintenance. For families who need to drive to work most days, the 10-Year Vision will put more than \$550 back into their pockets each year.

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Access to public transit is one of the keys to keeping non-driving seniors active in our communities and better able to live independently.
- Public transit is a critical resource for low income households, as well as new immigrants and refugees making the transition to life in Canada.
- Faster commutes, fewer pass ups, and expanded services and schedules means more time spent with family and friends, and more options for moving around Metro Vancouver for work and play.
- Transit encourages more compact development in communities, decreasing the distances people need to travel to reach destinations.

SUPPORTIVE VOICES

“All levels of government have made commitments to reducing poverty and enhancing the public’s health, so it is up to all levels of government to play a role in accelerating the completion of the 10-Year Vision.”

**RITA KOUTSODIMOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- BC ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHY LIVING**



“Having a strong public transit network is absolutely essential to supporting healthy, active and independent seniors in our communities. Our quality of life depends on sustained investments in transportation from all levels of government.”

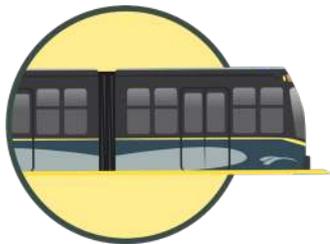
**KAHIR LALJI, PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR,
POPULATION HEALTH - UNITED WAY OF THE
LOWER MAINLAND**



METRO VANCOUVER RESIDENTS AGREE

According to a 2017 survey, 81 per cent of Metro Vancouver residents say transportation delays cause them lost time every week, and 80 per cent are frustrated with the unpredictability of travel times.

More recently, a February 2019 poll by Mustel Group found that a strong majority of people in the Metro Vancouver region believe the federal government should continue matching provincial and regional investments in transit. They also agree that a permanent, sustainable transit fund is the best way to provide that funding.



Transit ridership in Metro Vancouver has increased over 17 per cent since the beginning of 2016 – the fastest of any region in North America—and demand only continues to grow. Committing to a **Congestion Relief Fund** will make sure we meet this demand by accelerating our major transportation projects and development of the next long-range plan, ensuring: more public transit closer to every neighbourhood; access to affordable housing; an increase in transportation choices and alternatives; and getting commuters and commercial vehicles where they need to go, faster.