



STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT – BACKGROUND

On November 10, 2016, for the first time ever, the Mayors' Council and TransLink's Board of Directors convened a public joint meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to collectively receive and review the report detailing feedback gathered through the public consultation process which took place in October, 2016, as well as the draft Phase One Plan (2017 Investment Plan) supporting the Mayors' Council's *10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation*.

The meeting was open to the public, and representatives of numerous business associations, advocacy groups, health-related organizations, and ridership coalitions provided their thoughts and opinions to the Mayors' Council and TransLink Board members. Feedback provided at the meeting, and through the public consultation on the Phase One Plan, demonstrated that TransLink is on the right track to beginning to deliver the transit service improvements and transportation enhancements that Metro Vancouver residents believe are long overdue.

“Many of our coalition members participated in TransLink’s public consultation in October and we’re pleased to see that you’ve received this positive feedback from the public on Phase One of the plan because we feel strongly that this is the right first step. We all know that improving our transportation system is one of the keys to connecting better our very diverse community and making it affordable and accessible for all concerned. This is why we urge you to approve this plan and begin working immediately on the next phase.”

Elizabeth Model, CEO, Better Transit and Transportation Coalition (BTTC)

“The mayors’ \$2-billion Phase One plan is an important step forward for vital transit and transportation investments across our region, ultimately helping to alleviate traffic congestion and improve our collective quality of life. At the same time we are asking you to support moving forward with Phase One, we are also encouraging the federal and provincial governments to commit to the longer-term partnerships and funding needed to implement the entire 10-year vision and get our region moving again. It’s only with the lasting partnership with the province and the federal government that the region will be able to realize the solutions needed to address our region’s otherwise great future.”

Robert MacKay-Dunn, Director, Public Policy and Communications, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

“We applaud the funding to Surrey LRT to sustain project development and getting it ready for procurement in 2017. We look forward to continuing our efforts from the Mayors’ Council and TransLink in developing Phase Two and Three of the Investment Plan that will address the full funding of Surrey’s LRT, Pattullo Bridge replacement, and other transit service expansions, such as the B-Line on Scott Road.”

Anita Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade

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“The HandyDART Rider’s Alliance is pleased with the Mayors’ Council’s attention given to the HandyDART service in the Phase One plan. The growing population of seniors which means the growing number of disabilities is increasing twice as fast as that of the population. We are pleased, though, that the mayors have recognized this trend with HandyDART increases in 2017, 2018, and 2019 that are higher than conventional bus services. We urge every mayor to vote in favour of the Phase One plan and work with us to ensure that the next steps address the quantity and quality of the HandyDART service.”

Elizabeth McKellar, Co-Chair, HandyDART Rider’s Alliance

“The United Way invests over \$25 million and partners with great organizations like the YWCA to help vulnerable people. But those services couldn’t be delivered in an effective way unless people can access them when they need them. And we know that the vulnerable people that we work with rely on public transportation to do that. United Way has been a vocal proponent on every initiative in this region to expand and improve public transit. That’s part of our mission. And that’s why we’re here today, to encourage you to continue that effort to expand and improve public transit for everybody in our community.”

Michael McKnight, President and CEO, United Way of the Lower Mainland

“I don’t need to tell you the myriad benefits of better transit, particularly in this region. We think about affordability so much and transportation costs are the second highest cost in the average household and if we can reduce we can really help with this major issue in the region. It’s vital for goods movement, removing the unnecessary single occupancy vehicles off the road, opens them up for people who have no choice but to drive in their vehicles. A particular interest to the David Suzuki Foundation is the public health benefits, the lower medical costs from less obesity from having more physical activity, fewer traffic fatality from injuries, and of course, cleaner air, which is the biggest downside of having so many vehicles on the road.”

“I speak from my time on the TransLink board where we can get some capital funding, but the operating funding isn’t there. So I think, as Elizabeth [Model, BTTC CEO] so vividly showed, with 145 members of the coalition, there is huge ground swell of public support for this and we’re looking to you for leadership and boldness in making the decisions necessary to get the funding to make it all work and to make this region live up to its full potential.”

Peter Ladner, BTTC (Board Member) and David Suzuki Foundation (Chair of the Board)

For a complete review of all public presentations made to the Mayors’ Council and TransLink’s Board of Directors on November 10, 2016, a video is available on TransLink’s YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRoReSgUrdI>