

To: Members of the Mayors' Council and TransLink Board of Directors, and UBCM President Councillor Trish Mandewo

Care of: Michael Buda, Executive Director, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

RE: Transit in Metro Vancouver.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide details on the BC Greens plan for transit in Metro Vancouver. Please find answers to your questions below.

1. Do you agree that public transit is an essential service in B.C.'s urban regions, that all levels of government must continue to invest in, so we can keep people and goods moving, improve affordability, unlock new housing, and reduce GHGs?

Yes. The BC Greens believe that everyone should be able to get to where they need to go—safely, efficiently, reliably and affordably. The way we choose to travel shapes our province, our cities and our daily lives. Offering people more options for transportation benefits the economy, supports the environment and improves public health.

Our current transport choices contribute significantly to climate change. Passenger trucks and cars were the biggest share of transport-related emissions, yet consecutive governments have continued to subsidize car travel at a rate of four times that of transit.

Our transportation system heavily subsidizes car drivers while underinvesting in public transit, cycling, ferries, trains and inter-regional buses.

Transport is also expensive. On average, households in BC spend \$10,879 a year on transportation, with 85% of that going towards private cars. The benefits of a well-functioning transportation system are substantial, with returns of up to \$5 for every \$1 invested in public transit. Mobility is good for business.

The BC Greens will make all public transit free for riders. We will implement a free public transit system for all people in British Columbia. We will connect all transit systems, to synchronize services and information infrastructure.

2. Do you support beginning to build the Access for Everyone Plan starting in 2025?

Yes. We made use of the **Access for Everyone Plan** as a supporting document in developing our platform and have referenced it in our internal policy paper for transit as well as in our replies to several election campaign surveys sent out to special interest groups.

We believe in induced demand—and that people will use transportation infrastructure if it exists. We cannot build our way out of congestion. But we can make fast, frequent and free public transit a reality. We can build cities that welcome people who use wheelchairs and mobility scooters. We can make cycling safe and accessible. And we can have buses and trains as viable choices across the entire province.

3. Will your government create a new, long-term \$3.4 billion Access for Everyone Fund that identifies \$500 million annually in new operating revenues for TransLink and invests \$2.9 billion annually, on average – including from federal funding programs like the Canada Public Transit Fund – towards the new capital projects in the Access for Everyone Plan?

The BC Greens will provide **immediate funding** for TransLink to maintain and expand service levels in 2025, and allocate funds to address existing public transit infrastructure and operational needs across the region.

The BC Greens platform, available [here](#), details over \$1 billion in additional transport spending per year, including \$600 million for Translink funding in 2025, \$745 million to replace current fare revenue and make public transit free, and an additional \$600 million to increase bus routes and numbers.

In addition, we plan to establish an all-party **Parliamentary Committee for sustainable transport funding**. This Committee will gather expert opinions to create a non-partisan mechanism for funding transport infrastructure and operations, ensuring a comprehensive network for trains, ferries, buses, bikes, trucks, and cars.

4. Do you support working with the Mayors' Council to review and improve the TransLink governance model to ensure that elected regional mayors are accountable to the public for decision-making at the agency commensurate with its growing responsibilities and revenues?

Yes. The BC Greens plan to review the funding and governance model for transport across the province will include consideration of accountability and oversight. Our plan, which makes transit the backbone of our transport network will require coordinated and clearly-communicated decision-making. We look forward to working in partnership with the Mayors' Council on this important work.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our responses. For more detail, please feel free to contact us at any point.