



October 8, 2024

Brad West
Mayor of Port Coquitlam
Chair, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation
Delivered via email to: mike.buda@translink.ca

Dear Mayor West,

Thank you for your letter outlining the priorities of the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and your concerns regarding the future of TransLink's funding and Metro Vancouver's public transit services.

The Conservative Party of British Columbia recognizes the critical role that public transit plays in supporting economic growth, reducing congestion, and enhancing quality of life in Metro Vancouver. As the region continues to grow at a record pace, ensuring that our transit infrastructure keeps up with this growth is essential for maintaining mobility and access to essential services for all British Columbians.

We agree that the current funding model for TransLink is outdated and unsustainable. Our plan, Get BC Moving, directly addresses this concern. Under our leadership, we will fully fund TransLink for the next two years while conducting a comprehensive audit of its financial model. This approach will ensure uninterrupted transit services while developing a long-term solution that provides financial stability without placing undue burden on taxpayers.

We understand the urgency behind your call to prevent drastic cuts to transit services, and we share your concern about the potential impact these cuts would have on essential workers, traffic congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions. That's why our commitment to fully fund TransLink through 2026 will protect transit riders and workers from the worst-case scenario outlined in your letter. Moreover, our plan emphasizes the importance of building new infrastructure, such as extending SkyTrain to Surrey's Newton community, improving safety across transit services, and expanding regional transit options like Fraser Valley regional rail.

Our vision for transportation in BC is one that puts people first, reduces bottlenecks, and makes common-sense investments in both road and transit infrastructure. We will work closely with the Mayors' Council and TransLink to ensure the success of projects outlined in the Transport 2050 Plan, including Bus Rapid Transit lines, SkyTrain extensions, and improved accessibility services like HandyDART.

Our approach is clear - our party will audit the funding model of Translink to identify the best way to secure long-term and reliable funding for both existing and future services. This will be done without imposing new taxes or tolls on already struggling British Columbians. Instead, we will focus on efficiency in spending, leveraging provincial resources effectively, and ensuring that public funds go towards projects that deliver maximum benefit for commuters and the economy. You can find further details on those proposals in our recently released Get BC Moving plan.¹

We look forward to working with the Mayors' Council to get BC moving again and ensure that our transit system serves the needs of all British Columbians, without adding financial burdens during an affordability crisis.

Sincerely,



John Rustad
Leader, Conservative Party of BC

¹ Get BC Moving News Release: https://www.conservativebc.ca/get_bc_moving_john_rustad_unveils_comprehensive_conservative_plan_for_infrastructure

Get BC Moving Backgrounder: https://www.conservativebc.ca/get_bc_moving