

Statement by the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation in response to the BC NDP platform

April 13, 2017 (New Westminster) – The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation is pleased that the platform released today by the BC NDP includes a commitment to complete the 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation.

“The Mayors' Council is encouraged by the BC NDP's platform commitments to improve transportation across Metro Vancouver,” said New Westminster Mayor Jonathan Cote, Chair of the Mayors' Council Funding Strategy Committee. “Today's announcement suggests the BC NDP is prepared to make the investments and work in partnership with the Mayors' Council to move forward with the full, comprehensive region-wide transportation strategy that's needed to reduce congestion on our roads and overcrowding on our transit system. That includes major projects like Broadway Subway and Surrey LRT, as well as other urgent transportation priorities such as replacing the Pattullo Bridge, adding bus service, and enhancing HandyDART service.”

The BC NDP platform provides some additional information about the proposal to eliminate tolls on the Golden Ears and Port Mann bridges. However, the Mayors' Council is still seeking clarification on these points and remains concerned about potential impacts of new tolling policies proposed by both the BC Liberals and BC NDP.

The Mayors' Council has asked all major parties running in this election to respond to a [questionnaire](#) specifying their commitments to six key priorities outlined in the Mayors' Council [#CureCongestion](#) campaign.

Here is how the BC NDP responds, or does not respond, to the #CureCongestion platform:

1. Follow through on the commitment to match the federal government, dollar for dollar, in its investment of \$2.2 billion towards rapid transit improvements and the construction of Broadway Subway and Surrey LRT.

The BC NDP has committed to funding 40 per cent of total capital costs of every phase of the 10-Year Vision, which would result in investing more than \$2.2 billion as the Province of BC's matching funds to begin construction on the Millennium Line Broadway Extension and Surrey LRT.

2. Support essential upgrades to the existing SkyTrain network by investing a \$360 million share towards additional rail cars and station upgrades, to address overcrowding and ready the system for expected future demand.

The BC NDP has committed to funding 40 per cent of the capital costs of every phase of the 10-Year Vision, which includes these upgrades.

3. Follow through on the existing provincial commitment to provide at least 1/3 of the capital costs towards replacing the aging Pattullo Bridge, and, on an urgent basis, assist in securing an additional federal share in the project.

The BC NDP has committed to funding 40 per cent of the capital costs of the Pattullo Bridge replacement. However, the Mayors' Council is still seeking clarification on the potential impacts of the party's proposed tolling policy.

4. Develop a funding strategy with TransLink to deliver provincial financial support towards improving HandyDART service, in recognition of its critical role in providing access to the provincial healthcare system for residents who can't use conventional transit services.

The BC NDP has committed to “work[ing] with TransLink ... to find long and lasting solutions to improve HandyDART service, reduce trip denials, and ensure that seniors and people with disabilities get the rides they need.”

5. Commit to authorizing a development cost charge for transit in the fall legislative session so it can be enacted by TransLink by 2020, as one of the regional revenue sources for Phase One of the 10-Year Vision, to keep the plan on track and fairly funded.

No specific commitment, however the Mayors' Council will seek clarification that the BC NDP commitment to working “in partnership with the Mayors' Council” will include legislative support to implement a DCC.

6. Support the expansion of bus service region-wide, improvements to road conditions for drivers, and enhanced safety for cyclists and pedestrians — by working with the Mayors' Council to ensure that remaining operating and capital costs of the Vision are fully funded in a manner that is fair and equitable to Metro Vancouver taxpayers.

The BC NDP has committed to funding 40 per cent of the capital costs of every phase of the 10-Year Vision, which includes a commitment to “adding essential bus service.”

The [Media page](#) on the Cure Congestion website contains links to all Mayors' Council statements responding to major party policy commitments on transportation in Metro Vancouver.

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