

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

April 20, 2017 (New Westminister) -- The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation is encouraged by the statements made today by the BC Green Party in its Transportation Strategy, and is looking forward to clarification on the party's specific commitments to completing the 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation.

"To achieve our objective of reducing congestion in Metro Vancouver and giving people more options for how they get around the region, our first priority is to complete the 10-Year Vision," said New Westminister Mayor Jonathan Cote, Chair of the Mayors' Council Funding Strategy Committee. "We're pleased the BC Green Party is committed to working in collaboration with the Mayors' Council and supporting our region-wide plan, however their strategy does not address all of the priorities we have outlined in our [Cure Congestion](#) platform."

The Mayors' Council has asked the BC NDP, BC Liberal Party and BC Green Party to respond to a [questionnaire](#) specifying their commitments to six key priorities, by Friday April 21. The Mayors' Council will provide additional comments on all three parties' transportation commitments next week.

Here is how the BC Green Party platform 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 Green Party says it will "match Federal funding for the Mayors' Council's plan."

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.

No specific commitment is indicated beyond a pledge to support implementation of the 10-Year Vision.

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.

No specific commitment is indicated beyond a pledge to support implementation of the 10-Year Vision.

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.

No commitment.

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 Green Party commitment to "empower Greater Vancouver mayors to implement a regional green transportation plan" 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 Greens are clear in their commitment to work collaboratively with the Mayors' Council to plan and deliver transportation improvements. Aside from mobility pricing, their transportation strategy does not specify whether provincial funding and other supports will be provided to complete all of the important initiatives outlined in the Vision.

The Green Party transportation strategy suggests mobility pricing as a way to manage congestion and generate funds for public transportation upgrades. Yesterday, Mayor Cote outlined the Mayors' Council approach to this issue in an article published by the Vancouver Sun: "[A principled approach to reducing Metro Vancouver's traffic congestion.](#)"

Mayor Cote argues that provincial and local government decision-makers must agree on five key principles for transportation planning and pricing: mobility, accountability, fairness, affordability and public engagement.

More information about the role of mobility pricing in completing the 10-Year Vision is available [here](#).

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