

THE CONGESTION RELIEF FUND

A smart way to support quality of life and economic growth in Canada's cities

The Mayors' Council is joining municipalities nation-wide through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in asking all federal parties to commit to creating a permanent, predictable, direct funding mechanism for modern public transit across Canada - a **Congestion Relief Fund**.

As the order of government closest to Canadians' daily realities, municipalities know what's needed on the ground to deliver cost-effective solutions that protect and improve quality of life in our communities. As we build better infrastructure, services and communities, we're building better lives for Canadians.

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

Investments in transportation are critical to economic prosperity and growth. At a time of economic uncertainty, Metro Vancouver plays a key role for all Canadians as our primary Asia-Pacific gateway and an important link to our largest trading partner – the United States. TransLink is starting to add more frequent transit service across the system, and funding road upgrades region-wide, with over \$9 billion in federal, provincial and local investments committed so far through the 10-Year Vision. Ongoing federal investment of \$370 million annually through a Congestion Relief Fund would, over 10 years, support completion of the 10-Year Vision to help move people and goods across Metro Vancouver more efficiently, resulting in over \$9 billion in regional economic growth that supports good jobs for people.

INVESTMENTS IN TRANSIT ARE INVESTMENTS IN THE ECONOMY

KEEPING PACE WITH GROWTH

- You can't grow an economic region if you don't have the infrastructure to support that growth. With one million new residents coming to our region over the next 20 years, we need to be ready.
- As Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway, the region is directly responsible for providing 82,000 jobs and indirectly providing tens of thousands more jobs. Success of the urban region – which include labour availability and travel-time reliability – is important to the success and competitiveness of the Gateway.
- Vancouver's road and rail network moves 27 per cent of Canada's marine-related cargo. With record levels of congestion and rapid population growth, transit is essential to freeing up road capacity.

SMARTER, LONG-TERM PLANNING

- A Congestion Relief Fund would allow us to do smarter long-term planning that the region can leverage to invest in major, transformative projects—as opposed to a reactive approach as opportunities come and go.
- Estimates of the economic cost of congestion to our region range from \$500 million to \$1.4 billion every year.
- Canada needs to catch up with other leading OECD countries like Germany, the US, Japan and the UK, that recognize the importance of long-term planning in providing a steady stream of national transit funding.

SUPPORTIVE VOICES

“Investing in public transportation options is critical for the long-term strength of our regional economy. Employees need to be able to get to work from where they can afford to live. It is more important than ever for the federal government to provide sustainable funding.”

**PATRICK STAFFORD-SMITH, CEO
- NORTH VANCOUVER CHAMBER**



NORTH VANCOUVER
CHAMBER

“B.C. is leading national growth, but this won't continue if we can't figure out how to move our people and goods. We need to understand that Metro Vancouver's transportation system has implications for the entire provincial economy. For this reason, the completion of the 10-Year Vision has to be a top priority.”

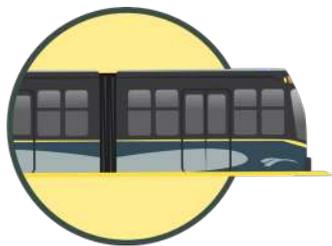
**VAL LITWIN, PRESIDENT & CEO
- BC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



BC Chamber
of Commerce

SUPPORTING JOBS AND GROWTH THROUGH AFFORDABILITY

Better transit and increasing our transportation choices is one of the keys to making life more affordable for Metro Vancouver residents. If we can make it easier to get around the region, residents will have better access to affordable options for housing and transportation. In a region with high housing costs, investments in transportation that make it easier to access affordable homes and support a strong labour force will help our region to thrive. A **Congestion Relief Fund** would have broad impacts on productivity. According to a 2017 survey, 81 per cent of Metro Vancouver residents say transportation delays cause them lost time every week, which could otherwise be spent working, recharging, or contributing to the wider community.



Transit ridership in Metro Vancouver has increased over 17 per cent since the beginning of 2016 – the fastest of any region in North America—and demand only continues to grow. This explosion in new ridership is outpacing planned expansion. We need to accelerate completion of the 10-Year Vision now if we want to stay ahead of surging ridership growth.

CURECONGESTION.CA



**MAYORS'
COUNCIL**
On Regional Transportation