



Making a difference...together

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July 31, 2026

File: 0550-20

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Transportation and Transit
Province of British Columbia

The Honourable Gregor Robertson
Minister of Housing and Infrastructure
Government of Canada

Via email: TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca, gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Farnworth and Minister Robertson:

RE: SUPPORT FOR AN UPDATED RAPID TRANSIT FEASIBILITY AND ALIGNMENT STUDY FOR THE CAPITAL REGION

At its November 12, 2025 meeting, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board passed a resolution supporting a letter to senior governments advocating for support to jointly undertake an updated study on the feasibility and alignment of rapid transit within the capital region.

While investments in active transportation within the capital region over the past 20 years have contributed to walking and cycling trips increasing from 14% in 2001 to 23% in 2022, transit mode share trends have seen limited growth in the same period, staying at around 6.5%. A growing body of analysis from agencies across the capital region is reinforcing the importance of rapid transit in achieving regional sustainable mode share targets and accommodating population growth.

The CRD is currently developing a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that will serve as the long-term strategic framework for how people and goods move throughout the region. At the same time, BC Transit is preparing the Victoria Regional Transit Plan (VRTP) to identify future transit priorities and service needs. Together, these initiatives will establish the regional transportation and transit vision needed to inform future rapid transit investments.

Additionally, x̱w̱séps̱əm Nation (also known as Esquimalt Nation), Songhees Nation, Island Corridor Foundation (ICF), the CRD, and local municipalities (Victoria, Esquimalt, View Royal, Colwood, and Langford) are undertaking a technical study to assess the feasibility of re-introducing passenger rail service between Vic West and the Westshore along the island rail corridor. This study is being completed as part of the larger Reconciliation Corridor Initiative (RCI), which is based on a reconciliation-centered approach to exploring passenger rail service, grounded in mutual respect, mutual prosperity, and with hopes for long-term regional benefit.

The results of the technical feasibility study will inform future decision-making for the corridor, including if concept design and a formal business case should be prepared as well as how the corridor can tie into and support current and future transportation planning work by the CRD, local governments, the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and BC Transit.



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Support for updated Rapid Transit Feasibility & Alignment Study for the Capital Region 2

In light of these ongoing planning initiatives and the region's long-term transportation needs, the CRD Board requests that the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada partner with the CRD to undertake an updated feasibility and alignment study for rapid transit within the region. The study would build off the ongoing RTP, VRTP and RCI work as well as other recent studies and initiatives, and could assess a range of potential technologies, service concepts, alignments, implementation approaches, costs, benefits, and governance considerations to support future decision-making within the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The CRD Board looks forward to continued collaboration with senior governments and regional partners on transportation solutions that support a connected, sustainable, and resilient capital region.

Sincerely,



Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Erinn Pinkerton, President and Chief Executive Officer, BC Transit
Thomas Bevan, Chief Executive Officer, Island Corridor Foundation

