



June 24, 2024

His Worship
Mayor Nathan Pachal
City of Langley
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley BC V3A 4B3

Reference: 326551
Your File: 195328

Dear Mayor Pachal:

Re: Passenger Rail

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 2024, regarding your support for passenger rail in B.C.'s South Coast region.

Our government knows that British Columbians want more options to travel efficiently without a vehicle, and we recognize that investing in sustainable transportation choices across all modes is the way forward.

When considering passenger rail, we look at its potential as part of an integrated transportation system that can move people and goods efficiently within a region and between regions. We want solutions that support economic vibrancy, affordability, climate action and community resilience. We recognize there are potential opportunities for passenger rail service across the province; however, these investments must align with integrated regional land use plans, current provincial investments in the region and considerations related to existing commercial rail operations.

While the ministry continues to consider passenger rail as we work to expand transportation options around the province, our focus remains on making significant investments to expand bus and SkyTrain infrastructure across the South Coast region to ensure people can get to their destinations conveniently and efficiently for decades to come. This includes the [Surrey Langley SkyTrain Project](#), which will extend the Expo Line 16 kilometres primarily along Fraser Highway from King George SkyTrain Station in Surrey to 203 Street in Langley City, as well as our work on the [Broadway Subway Project](#) to extend the Millennium Line SkyTrain to Arbutus Street. This is the first time we will be delivering two SkyTrain extensions at the same time. Together, these two projects will increase the region's existing SkyTrain network by 27 per cent.

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The ministry recently investigated passenger rail options in the Fraser Valley along the existing railway corridor between New Westminster and Chilliwack, known as the Interurban Line. This work will provide helpful knowledge as we explore more ways to connect people and communities in other regions.

This past summer, the Honourable Dan Coulter, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit, and ministry staff engaged with Fraser Valley communities, municipalities and transit agencies to discuss strategies for working together to co-plan for future growth and align priorities to guide investments and future initiatives. One common theme that has been discussed is transit integration within and between communities in the Fraser Valley, in addition to how they will connect to the Surrey Langley SkyTrain. We look forward to continuing these discussions as we develop long-term integrated transportation planning options for the region.

As you know, TransLink's plan for transportation priorities in Metro Vancouver over the next decade, [Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities](#), envisions the largest and fastest deployment of quick, frequent and reliable rapid transit in the region's history. Our government recognizes the importance in investing in transit solutions in Metro Vancouver and the rest of B.C. and has continued with its historic commitment and funding for public transit. This includes the most recent commitment from the Province of up to \$300 million in capital funding to support TransLink with bus purchases as part of the agency's 2024 Investment Plan.

People in the Metro Vancouver region will soon see increased bus frequencies and longer service hours on approximately 60 bus routes, more SeaBus service on weekdays and late evening service for HandyDART customers starting in September 2024. This commitment to support public transit builds on approximately \$5.72 billion in capital funding for TransLink since 2017/18, over \$850 million from the provincial and federal governments for TransLink to support the agency through the challenges of the pandemic, and an additional \$479 million from the Province to help keep TransLink service stable while ridership continued to recover.

The provincial government meanwhile continues to work hard to find solutions to meeting the need for regional transportation outside of major cities. In spring 2023, we [provided funding](#) to the [Northern Development Initiative Trust](#), the [Island Coastal Economic Trust](#) and the [Economic Trust of the Southern Interior](#) to conduct regional engagement on and analysis of rural, regional inter-city transportation. Each trust has now published a report that is available on its website. The trusts' work will be useful as we engage further with other regions and develop options to enhance regional transportation services across the province.

You can be sure the ministry will keep passenger rail in mind as we work to better integrate interregional travel around the province.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" being more prominent than the last name "Fleming".

Rob Fleming
Minister

Copy to: Honourable Dan Coulter
 Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit
 MLA, Chilliwack