

---

## BACKGROUND

2008OTP0003-000020  
Jan. 14, 2008

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Transportation

### **COMPREHENSIVE NEW TRANSIT PLAN BENEFITS ENTIRE PROVINCE**

#### **Key Objectives**

- Increase transit ridership across the province to over 400 million trips a year.
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other air contaminants from cars by 4.7 million tonnes cumulatively by 2020.
- Support increased population and employment densities near transit hubs and along transit corridors, changing urban forms, which will further decrease GHG emissions.
- For Metro Vancouver, the transit market share will grow from 12 per cent during weekdays today to 17 per cent by 2020 and to 22 per cent by 2030.
- For the Victoria Regional Transit System, the transit market share will grow from today's seven per cent to 9.5 per cent by 2020 and 12 per cent by 2030.
- For other regions of the province, the transit market share will grow from today's three per cent to four per cent in 2020 and five per cent in 2030.
- Ease traffic congestion and make all our communities healthier places to live and easier places to get around.
- Provide transit riders with access to more buses, more often.
- Upgrade our provincial bus fleet with 1,500 new, clean energy buses and related maintenance infrastructure,
- Increase the hours of service.
- Create long-term partnerships to maximize taxpayer investments and meet specific needs of specific communities in cost-effective, energy efficient ways.
- Improve transit rider safety and comfort with improved security on and around transit, particularly rapid transit, and increase fare compliance.
- Increase seniors' mobility options and improve services for those with mobility challenges.

#### **Costs for Major Transit Improvements**

- \$1.6 billion for 1,500 new, clean technology buses to add nearly 60 per cent more buses to the provincial fleet and provide communities in British Columbia more frequent service to meet transit users' specific needs.

- \$10.3 billion for four new and expanded rapid transit lines serving communities across Metro Vancouver – the Evergreen Line, the UBC Line, the upgraded Expo Line, and the Canada Line (previously committed funding totalling \$2 billion for which B.C. is providing \$435 million).
- \$1.2 billion for new RapidBus BC lines – energy efficient, high capacity buses on nine major routes in the high growth urban centres of Kelowna, Victoria and Metro Vancouver, providing frequent, fast, reliable service that looks and feels like rapid transit and operates on dedicated lane-ways in some cases.

### **Other Benefits**

- Increased security measures such as installing electronic gates and closed-circuit cameras at rapid transit stations and using a smart-card system for rapid transit and buses that users can reload at vending machines or on the Internet.
- New, customized solutions for individual communities across the province, including more HandyDART, community shuttles, conventional buses and other technologies.

### **Financial Requirements**

- \$11.1 billion in new funding is required from all partners.
- The estimated provincial share of funding – over 40 per cent of new funding – is \$4.75 billion by 2020.
- Over the life of the plan from now until 2020, the Province is calling on the federal government for investments of \$3.1 billion, TransLink for investments of \$2.75 billion, and local governments for investments of \$500 million along with supportive land use.
- In total, \$14 billion in funding is required through 2020.

Media contact: Tamara Little  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Transportation  
250 387-7787  
250 889-1825

Dale Steeves  
Communications Director  
Office of the Premier  
250 387-6605

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca).