



August 12, 2020

Colin Plant, Chair  
Capital Regional District Board  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

Reference: 294961  
Your File: 0550-20

Dear Chair Plant,

**Re: Transit Service**

Premier John Horgan shared with me your letter of June 26, 2020, regarding public transit in the Capital region.

Our government shares the Capital Regional District's interest in ensuring that transit is well supported and available, both to serve those who rely on it and to attract new ridership. Public transit can make our communities more affordable and accessible, get us out of gridlock and help lower our carbon footprint.

Local governments, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and BC Transit have worked hard to ensure operators and passengers have been able to safely use public transit throughout this pandemic. As we begin to reopen the economy through [BC's Restart Plan](#), strong transit service will be critical to our success.

I was pleased to see that the federal government recently announced it will provide up to \$19 billion in funding to Canadian provinces and territories to support a variety of important programs and services during the recovery phase, including public transit. Public transit forms the backbone of our communities and is an essential part of restarting our economy, and we look forward to working with the federal government on the details of this support as we continue to advocate for the services British Columbians depend on.

In the meantime, the ministry remains committed to continuing to work with BC Transit to mitigate the pressures of COVID-19 and explore additional support measures as we assess what restarting the economy looks like for public transit in B.C. We also remain committed to completing projects that make choosing transit a more attractive and convenient option, such as the southbound Douglas Street priority bus lane extension, which began construction in late June.

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As you know, the ministry's South Island Transportation Strategy has been exploring how we can help get people to where they need to be more quickly and efficiently. The strategy has been looking at all modes of transportation and will help us prioritize where investments could make significant improvements to mobility. We expect to release the strategy in the coming weeks.

Should you have any questions or want an update on our work, please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's Executive Director for the Transit Branch, Andrea Mercer. She can be reached at 778 974-4992 or by email at [Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca) and would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena  
Minister

Copy to: Premier John Horgan

Honourable Rob Fleming  
Minister of Education  
MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

Honourable Carole James  
Minister of Finance  
Deputy Premier  
MLA, Victoria-Beacon Hill

Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister of Agriculture  
MLA, Saanich South

Mitzi Dean  
MLA, Esquimalt-Metchosin

Adam Olsen  
MLA, Saanich North and the Islands

Andrea Mercer, Executive Director  
Transit Branch