

Policy Context

Senior levels of government set policy that shapes funding, infrastructure and grants. Policy on climate, economic recovery and transportation will shape what gets built in the region.

Table 1 shows the regulatory and planning frameworks by transportation function.
Table 2 summarizes how the proposed priority areas deliver on key policy commitments.

Table 1: Policy Framework Summary

Focus Area	Legislative Framework	Policy and Regulatory Framework
Land Use	<i>Local Government Act</i>	Regional Growth Strategy, Official Community Plans, Local Area Plans, regional and municipal bylaws
Highway and Road Network	<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i>	South Island Transportation Strategy, Regional Transportation Plan, municipal transportation plans, regional and municipal bylaws
Transit	<i>BC Transit Act</i>	BC on the Move, Victoria Transit Future Plan, Transit Local Area Plans RapidBus Strategy, regional and municipal bylaws
Active Transportation	<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i>	CRD Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan, Regional Trails Management Plan, municipal active transportation plans, regional and municipal bylaws
Climate Change	<i>Carbon Tax Act (2008), Climate Change Accountability Act (2007), Zero-Emission Vehicles Act (2019), Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act (2008/2009), Community Charter, Local Government Act, BC Climate Action Charter</i>	Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (2016), CleanBC (2019), Regional Growth Strategy, Official Community Plans, Local Area Plans, regional and municipal climate action plans, regional and municipal bylaws

KEY FEATURES OF STRATEGIC POLICY DOCUMENTS

PAN-CANADIAN FRAMEWORK ON CLEAN GROWTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE (2016 – Federal)

The Pan-Canadian Framework is the national plan that sets out how the federal government will take action on climate change. The federal approach to addressing emissions from transportation is to create the economic conditions needed to transition to lower emitting vehicles: (1) improve vehicle emission standards, (2) expand the number of zero-emission vehicles on the road, (3) invest in infrastructure that supports mode shift and (4) use cleaner fuels.

CLEANBC (2019 – Provincial)

CleanBC is the provincial plan sets BC’s climate action visions and targets. Informed by the federal approach, the Province will take action on emissions from transportation by: (1) making zero-emission vehicle use more convenient and affordable, (2) increasing the supply of green fuels and (3) investing in infrastructure that supports mode shift, focusing on bus rapid transit and integrated active transportation.

SOUTH ISLAND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY (2020 – Provincial)

SITS is the most recent provincial planning document related to transportation on the South Island. The strategy takes an integrated multi-modal approach to transportation in the region. It is aligned with CleanBC and sets clear goals for the integration of transit and active transportation in the overall transportation network. It has a strong focus on safety, reliability of transportation and connections between modes and communities.

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY (2018 – CRD)

The RGS establishes a vision and targets for the growth management of the region under the authority of the *Local Government Act*. The strategy focuses on reducing GHG emissions and improving multi-modal connectivity and mobility by setting out a compact settlement concept that directs growth to designated nodes and corridors.

Table 2: Priority Area Alignment to Key Policy Priorities

Priority Area Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed priority areas align to senior government policy frameworks. Senior government focus on greening fuel sources will significantly help reduce GHG emissions, but will not address the transportation problems of congestion and mode shift. ➤ The region needs to agree to these priority areas to leverage maximum access to investments. 	
	Senior Government Policy Priorities	Proposed Regional Priority Areas
Transition to Lower Emitting Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand charging infrastructure - Make zero-emission vehicles more affordable - Expand the low-carbon fuel standard - Increase the supply of renewable fuels 	RapidBus Integrated roads and highways General transit investments Parking and access upgrades	
Multi-Modal Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest in integrated infrastructure - Improve public transit by investing in bus rapid transit 	RapidBus Dedicated active transportation funding Regional trail network completion Continue to implement RGS settlement concept SSI / SGI connectivity	
Affordability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pandemic recovery - Integrate transportation into an economic vision for the South Island (SITS) - Promote investment, economic development and job opportunities near affordable housing (SITS) 	RapidBus Dedicated active transportation funding Regional trail network completion General transit investments Continue to implement RGS settlement concept	
Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore trail enhancements - Focus on intersection improvements - Protect vulnerable road users (i.e. Vision Zero) - Implement highway safety improvements - Target investments to improve network connectivity 	SSI / SGI island connectivity Safety policy – Vision Zero Integrated roads and highways Continue to implement RGS settlement concept	