

Minister of Infrastructure
and Communities



Ministre de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

Mr. Colin Plant
Chair
Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street
P.O. Box 1000
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 2S6

Dear Mr. Plant:

Thank you for your letter of June 26, 2020, regarding the importance of federal support for public transit in the Capital Regional District of British Columbia.

The Government of Canada is focused on overcoming the greatest health crisis of our time. It is taking strong and quick action to stabilize our economy and support communities across Canada, while protecting the health and safety of all Canadians.

Infrastructure Canada is working with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts, Indigenous leaders and municipalities to move forward on meeting immediate infrastructure needs, what can be rolled out in the short term to support jobs, and how we will restart our economy as quickly as possible while respecting public safety guidelines. The Department is also continuing to accelerate project funding approvals that create jobs and improve the quality of life for Canadians across the country, and is working diligently to process reimbursement of claims received from its partners so that they will have the funds they need to continue moving projects forward and employing Canadians.

The Government of Canada's *Investing in Canada* plan is providing over \$4.1 billion in federal funding dedicated to infrastructure projects in British Columbia. This funding will see the Government of Canada and the province make unprecedented investments in public transit, green infrastructure, communities, recreational and cultural infrastructure, as well as rural and northern communities.

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From Canada's small towns to its largest urban centres, efficient public transit is vital to the functioning of communities, and it is a priority for the Government of Canada. Public transit helps to reduce traffic on roads in order to better accommodate other economic activity. It is the primary means of mobility for many Canadians, allowing them to access jobs, education, health care and social activities. With increasing urbanization and an aging population, transit systems in both urban and rural areas will need to adapt their services. To support ambitious public transit projects, the Government of Canada is investing \$28.7 billion over 12 years. This funding will make it possible for Canadian communities to transform the way people live, move and work.

Together, we will work to ensure that infrastructure plays a vital role in promoting economic growth, job creation and improving our quality of life in the coming months and years.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities