

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PROVINCE OF BC
FOR REBUILDING TRANSIT IN BC

June 16, 2020

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

1. The Province of BC and BC local governments commit to the following ***Principles for Rebuilding Transit in BC***:
 - a. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting near- and longer-term economic and community shocks require unprecedented action by all orders of government working in partnership.
 - b. Transit is an essential service critical for providing mobility during the acute phases of the pandemic and to support the social and economic recovery of the transit communities and the province as part of the BC Restart Plan.
 - c. A transit recovery and rebuilding strategy, including transit service levels and senior government support, must be responsive to continued pandemic and economic shocks and potential shifts in travel behaviour and safe transit operating guidelines as the COVID-19 crisis evolves.
 - d. Local and regional strategies for growth management, transit and transportation, economic development, climate change and affordability are still relevant and must continue to guide local and provincial decision making and investment during post-pandemic rebuilding.
 - e. The costs of responding to and recovering from COVID-19 should not be downloaded onto regressive revenues sources like the property tax or transit fares which will hinder economic recovery.

2. The Province of BC will work with TransLink, BC Transit, UBCM and BC local governments to:
 - a. Deliver a ***Provincial Transit Recovery Strategy*** to address the 2020 and 2021 financial impacts that TransLink and BC Transit have already incurred and will continue to incur due to the COVID-19 crisis so that both can continue delivering the services and mobility the province needs to rebuild and prosper in the coming months and years.
 - b. Develop a ***Provincial Rebuilding Strategy for BC's Transit and Transportation Sector*** in 2021 that will strengthen BC Transit's and TransLink's funding models by expanding transit revenue tools to reduce reliance on transit fares so that both agencies can:
 - Sustain, improve and grow transit as the economy and population grows
 - Rebuild transit ridership and provide mobility alternatives to support economically competitive, sustainable and livable communities.