

Interregional Transit and Rural Passenger Transportation

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Presentation to UBCM Sept 2026

Ministry of Transportation and Transit
Connected Mobility and Transit Branch



Ministry of
Transportation
and Transit

AGENDA

- Ministry Role
- Vision and Guiding Principles
- Guiding Principles and Overarching Conditions
- Discussion Questions

Ministry Role – Interregional Transit

- Responsible for BC Transit's legislation, funding and policy
 - Work with BC Transit on long-term strategic planning
 - Identify funding needs and facilitate decisions to support approved projects
 - Integration and alignment with government strategies and initiatives
- Funding relationship with NDIT for Northern Transportation Services
 - BC Bus North
 - Northern Community Shuttle Program
- Relationships with other entities to coordinate programs and services including federal government, other Ministries and organizations.



Ministry **Vision** for Rural, Regional and Intercity Passenger Transportation

A healthy, multi-modal transportation system that enables people across BC to have safe, affordable and accessible travel choices for access to and between regional centers



Ministry Guiding Principles

- **Local and regional decision-making** on routes, frequencies, fares and levels of service, to recognize diversity of communities;
- **Integration** between passenger transportation modes to enable connections to regional centers and services that people rely on;
- **Leverage partnership funding** to ensure services are sustainable;
- **Collaboration and coordination** between public and private sector services to enable businesses to flourish and ensure sustainability; and
- **Equity** of access for First Nations and rural communities, and disadvantaged groups.

Guiding Principles and Overarching Conditions

Guiding Principles	Overarching Conditions
1.) Local and regional decision-making on routes, frequencies, fares, and levels of service to recognize diversity of communities	▪ A regional lead (local government, First Nation, non-profit) to lead service design, collaboration with partners, governance and funding arrangements ▪ Regional lead to demonstrate community support and engagement with partners
2.) Integration between passenger transportation modes to enable connections to regional centres/services	▪ Regional lead to provide evidence of collaboration with other transportation modes that operate in the area (e.g. ferries, transit, airports, intercity buses, active transportation, taxis/ridehail, car share as applicable)
3.) Leverage partnership funding to ensure services are sustainable	▪ Regional lead commits to share of funding for five years, seeks partnership funding, and works with Ministry to explore federal funding ▪ Regional to set fares, balancing affordability and cost recovery
4.) Collaboration and coordination between public and private sector services to enable businesses to flourish	▪ Regional lead to identify other services operating on the corridor and provide evidence of discussions aimed at collaboration and coordination of services ▪ Regional lead to demonstrate service need and mitigate impacts to existing operators
5.) Equity of access for First Nations rural communities, and disadvantaged populations	▪ Regional lead must demonstrate how First Nations, rural communities, and disadvantaged populations will benefit from the service

Discussion: Feedback on Guiding Principles and Overarching Conditions

- What are the highest-priority transportation gaps between your community and regional centres, and what are the greatest impacts on residents and businesses?
- Are there significant barriers that would prevent your community from aligning with the *Ministry's Guiding Principles and Overarching Conditions*?
- What are the biggest barriers to delivering and sustaining these types services, and what supports would have the greatest impact on long-term viability?
- What potential partnership opportunities exist that could realistically contribute to long-term service sustainability?
- Are ther any other opportunities such as service integration, funding models or partnerships that could advance sustainable transportation initiatives?
- Aside from funding, where do you see the greatest opportunities for provincial support?



COMMON
GOOD UBCM
2026



Vancouver Food Runners

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Vancouver Food Runners. Building connections between local businesses, nonprofits, and volunteers to ensure surplus food reaches essential community food programs. Vancouver Food Runners believe in turning surplus food into meaningful change. They believe good food belongs to people, not landfills!