

**Councillor Susan Brice –  
Chair**  
*District of Saanich*

**Councillor Sharmarke Dubow**  
*City of Victoria*

TBD

**Mayor Fred Haynes**  
*District of Saanich*

**Mayor Lisa Helps**  
*City of Victoria*

**Mayor Rob Martin**  
*City of Colwood*

**Mayor Kevin Murdoch**  
*District of Oak Bay*

**Mayor Geoff Orr**  
*District of North Saanich*

**Mayor Maja Tait**  
*District of Sooke*

Re: Additional operational funding for public transit

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission funds and manages the second largest transit system in the Province of British Columbia, delivering over 27 million passenger trips per year.

This upcoming Federal election presents all candidates a critical opportunity to demonstrate how they will improve the lives of Canadians through enhanced funding models to support public transit systems. We all appreciate that efficient, extensive and reliable public transit systems are vital in promoting sustainable mobility in Canada. Reliable systems cut congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, permit better land use policies for municipalities and regional authorities, all the while providing commuters better travelling choices.

Without new funding options, municipalities, regional authorities and local public transit providers do not have the tax base or financial resources to build and operate the effective transit systems required for a greener future that offers a real alternative to the private automobile and a tool to combat climate change.

At its August 13, 2019 meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to urge each party to commit additional funding to defray the operational costs of local public transit to support augmented services at an affordable cost to riders without over-reliance on local taxation. Incremental funding in the near term will also allow agencies, such as ourselves, to accelerate the adoption of low-to-zero emission transit vehicles in response to the climate crisis.

During the previous election, the Commission was very pleased to see that all the major political parties responded favourably to the demands of municipalities by campaigning on increased investments in transit infrastructure. Through this election, we look forward to your continued support of this vital service and a commitment to ongoing additional operational funding to enable the reliable and sustainable transportation services that families and workers deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Brice, Chair  
Victoria Regional Transit Commission

cc: Commission Members