



August 12, 2020

Her Worship
Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Reference: 294439

Dear Mayor Helps,

Re: COVID 19 Recovery and Public Transit

Thank you for your letter regarding public transit and our province's COVID-19 recovery.

Local governments and BC Transit have worked hard to ensure operators and passengers have been able to safely use public transit throughout this pandemic. As we begin to reopen the economy through [BC's Restart Plan](#), we know how important a strong transit service will be to our success. Thank you for helping to ensure that transit remains available for those who rely on this essential service.

I was pleased to see our government announce, alongside the federal government, an agreement for \$19 billion in federal funding for Canadian provinces and territories to support a variety of important programs and services during the recovery phase, including support for municipalities and public transit. Public transit forms the backbone of our communities and is an integral part of enabling the restart of our economy. We look forward to working with the federal government as we finalize the details of this funding package and continue to advocate for the services British Columbians depend on.

I appreciated your suggestions for investment in a third fleet maintenance facility, electrification and transit infrastructure, and I have shared these recommendations with our transit team. You can be sure we will keep these priorities in mind as we plan how best to support public transit and our economy.

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In the meantime, BC Transit has now resumed front door loading and fare collection in all communities, including Victoria. I understand BC Transit continues to closely monitor the situation in Victoria and other communities and make service and operating adjustments as required. The ministry remains committed to continuing to work with BC Transit to mitigate the pressures of COVID-19 and explore additional support measures as we assess what restarting the economy looks like for public transit in B.C.

Should you have any questions or want an update on this work, please do not hesitate to contact the ministry's Executive Director for the Transit Branch, Andrea Mercer. She can be reached at 778 974-4992 or by email at Andrea.Mercer@gov.bc.ca and would be pleased to assist you.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: The Honourable Marc Garneau
 Minister of Transport

Deborah Bowman, Assistant Deputy Minister
Transportation Policy and Programs Department

Andrea Mercer, Executive Director
Transit Branch