



MAYOR'S OFFICE

JAN 30 2018

VICTORIA, B.C.

JAN 25 2018

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

Reference: 272727

Dear Mayor ^{Lisa} Helps,

Re: Regional Transportation

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 2017, sharing with me your support for the Capital Regional District's (CRD's) proposed Regional Transportation Authority. I am sorry it has taken me so long to reply.

I have been given a very clear mandate from the Premier with respect to improving transportation infrastructure and ensuring that the public transit needs of the province are met. With the Capital Regional District's (CRD's) western communities being among the fastest growing in all of Canada, congestion heading into the downtown core will only become worse if left unchecked. Transportation solutions must keep pace in order to meet people's needs, and our government is committed to finding the right solutions.

I appreciated the opportunity to review your comments about the concept of a Regional Transportation Authority. We share the same goals as local governments – to alleviate traffic congestion and deliver reliable, efficient transit service to help people get around with ease. The municipalities that comprise the Capital Regional District need to have a shared vision for how to achieve these goals, and how the proposed Regional Transportation Authority would operate toward this end. You can be assured the province will continue to work with local governments to help find the right solution that will most benefit the residents of the CRD.

In the meantime, we are continuing to look at the E&N corridor between Langford and Victoria as a possible way to improve transportation in the region. MLA Mitzi Dean will lead consultations with local First Nations and municipal partners. However, this work is complex and restarting rail on this corridor may not be the quickest way to address the gridlock that we see today. In the interim, we are accelerating the implementation of bus lanes along the Trans-Canada Highway to help provide immediate relief to the current gridlock.

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I also look forward to seeing results from the analysis being conducted by the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, City of Colwood and the Town of View Royal on the possibility of priority bus lanes from Goldstream Avenue to the Trans-Canada Highway on-ramp, in addition to other rapid transit enhancements.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena
Minister

Copy to: Premier John Horgan

Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance
MLA, Victoria-Beacon Hill

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake

Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture
MLA, Saanich South

Andrew Weaver
MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head