



MAYOR'S OFFICE

DEC 18 2017

VICTORIA, B.C.

DEC 14 2017

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

Reference: 271309

Dear Mayor Helps,

Re: Inter-city Bus Services

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2017, sharing with me the resolutions of the City of Victoria Council with respect to inter-city bus services in the province. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I believe there may be opportunities for inter city buses in various areas of the province and we are exploring the possibilities.

British Columbians deserve safe and reliable transportation options, and I recognize the vital role that Greyhound plays in our province's transportation network, particularly in the North. The ministry works with communities across the province to identify transportation services that work for the needs of the region, and we will continue with this approach.

As you know, Greyhound is a private company operating in a regulated industry. Any service reductions must be approved by the Passenger Transportation Board, an independent tribunal. The Board makes these decisions based on whether there's a public need for the service, whether the applicant is capable of providing the service and whether the application supports sound economic conditions in the industry. The Board has posted a summary of Greyhound's application in its September 13 weekly bulletin, which is available on its website at http://www.ptboard.bc.ca/Bulletins/2017/20170913_Bulletin.pdf

The Board accepted public comments on the application until October 13, 2017, and I am glad that you also shared your resolutions with the Board. It will be holding public hearings in four northern communities in mid December.

As you are most likely aware, new BC Transit services have started along Highway 16 and will connect communities from Terrace to Prince George. These routes will allow people to travel safely to the next largest community and return home the same day.

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Buses are now running on the Smithers to Moricetown route and on the Burns Lake to Smithers and Burns Lake to Prince George route. Another inter-community transit service between Terrace and the Hazeltons was launched in November.

In addition, the ministry has installed six all-weather bus shelters, with six more under construction.

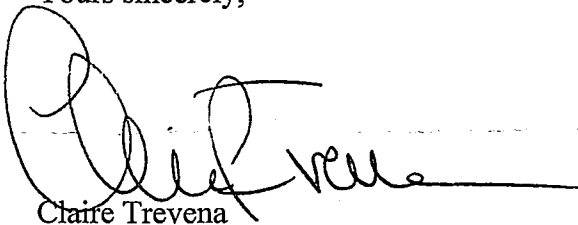
For more information, you may want to visit the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan Updates at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-reports-and-reference/reports-studies/planning-strategic-economic/highway16-action-plan/updates>

BC Transit has also introduced new Saturday services between Victoria and Duncan, starting October 14. Three round trips are being offered during the day, enabling residents to make day trips to Victoria or the Cowichan Valley. The Saturday service complements the weekday commuter services BC Transit provides for Cowichan Valley residents who travel to the Capital Region for work. BC Transit introduced the Saturday service in response to customer demand, and you can be sure the corporation will continue to explore opportunities to improve connectivity between communities.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Trevena
Minister