

Pages 1 through 2 redacted for the following reasons:

S13

# Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

## IN-CAMERA MEETING

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

12:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Suite 1220, TransLink Offices  
4720 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

- |           |   |               |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Preliminary Matters</b>                              | <b>12:30</b>  |
| 1.1       | Call to Order   |               |
| 1.2       | Adoption of Agenda                                      |               |
| 1.3       | Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2012                  |               |
| 1.4       | Chair's Update #10                                      |               |
| <br>      |   |               |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Regional Transportation Commissioner Appointment</b> |               |
|           | Report from Commissioner Recruitment Panel              | 12:35 – 12:40 |
| <br>      |   |               |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Regional Transportation Strategy Update</b>          | 12:40 – 1:00  |
|           | Presentation by Bob Paddon, TransLink                   |               |
| <br>      |   |               |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure</b>    | 1:00 – 2:00   |
| <br>      |   |               |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Debrief</b>  | 2:00 – 2:50   |
| <br>      |   |               |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Termination</b>                                      | 2:50          |

# Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

October 22, 2012

Via email: [minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Mary Polak, MLA  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
PO Box 9055 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Polak,

**Subject: Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation**

Thank you for your correspondence of October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the release of the TransLink Performance Audit and the future of TransLink funding. Your proactive approach is very much appreciated and I offer some comments and suggestions that hopefully will allow us to engage immediately in moving forward.

Our final Mayors' Council meeting for the year is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> and your attendance at that meeting is welcomed. In the interim we can develop specific strategies that might provide the basis for a constructive exchange of ideas at that session.

On October 18<sup>th</sup> the Mayors' Council confirmed its original April 2012 motion requesting that the \$30 million interim property tax contained in the 2012 Base Plan be removed through an additional Supplement; however, an alternative motion was put forward as outlined below. Hopefully the suggestions contained herein, in conjunction with the ideas put forward in your October 18<sup>th</sup> letter, will provide a basis for mutually beneficial discussions going forward.

Our October 18<sup>th</sup> Motion (Subject to December 5<sup>th</sup> Council approval of Minutes) proposes:

*"... that the Mayors' Council of Regional Transportation:*

1. *Request that the TransLink Board develop by March 31, 2013 a 2013 Supplemental Plan that meets the following conditions:*
  - *No service reductions for transit routes;*
  - *No liquidation of capital assets to fund operations;*
  - *No inclusion of the time-limited property tax*
  - *A new funding model agreed upon with the BC Government by Feb 28, 2013*
  - *Any operating gap closed with funds from TransLink's reserves*
2. *Bring forward a framework for a long-term funding plan by January 31, 2013.*

3. *Write to the Minister of Transportation requesting we create a joint working group immediately to develop solutions and that a deadline of February 28, 2013 be set for the BC Government and TransLink Mayors' Council to reach an agreement on a long-term funding model.*
4. *Request TransLink to prepare a new Supplement in the event that a new funding model has not been confirmed by February 28, 2013."*

The Motion is a summary expression of Mayors' Council concerns that:

- The role of future property tax funding for public transportation be considered within the scope of a long-term funding model for the region
- The formation of a working group of key stakeholders in developing a framework for regional transit funding be immediately instituted
- There be meaningful short-term timelines for benchmarking progress
- There be a stabilizing of TransLink's service levels until progress is achieved

Your letter of October 18<sup>th</sup> contains much that we agree with. We must continue to persevere to see the citizens of Metro Vancouver receive the transit infrastructure and services they need now and in the future. And we could not agree more with you that the citizens of Metro Vancouver have the opportunity to participate in and see the vision of public transit in the region.

The primary obstacle to our moving forward remains embedded in our differing views about the efficacy of the governance model we operate under. The best place to develop the public transit vision for the region is within and around the regional planning function of Metro Vancouver. This is the properly resourced planning function for the region, and its policy development work is clearly anchored in the full support and involvement of our regional Council network.

Mayors' Council's limited legislated functionality and resources do not align with an expedient and separate development of a vision for public transit in Vancouver. However, the Mayors' Council fully agrees with your proposed targets of:

- Creating a publicly supported vision for TransLink
- Creating public support for funding mechanisms to achieve this

We are very supportive of processes that include the Province, Metro Vancouver and TransLink, working along with the Mayors' Council. And we appreciate the encouragement taken by you in Metro's resolution to use its land use planning to enable a Regional Transit Strategy to have clear links to Metro Vancouver's "Regional Growth Strategy". As such, regional mayors would likely choose to have any sign off on TransLink's Regional Transit Strategy contingent on Metro Vancouver's prior approval.

We fully agree with your comments about the creation of public support for funding mechanisms – especially if there is a significant change to a funding model. But given the number of local governance voices involved in planning and transit (federal, provincial, regional, local and TransLink Board), this engagement process needs to be broadly planned and resourced to be successful. This principle is borne out in best practices throughout the world. The recent public presentation made by three eminent 'road pricing' experts emphasized the need to first develop a regional shared vision as you suggest, but then develop a detailed fact driven public engagement process, taking perhaps a year or more and supported



by many stakeholder groups including academia, the goods movement sector, media, trade and business organizations and taxpayer groups.

Whether or not the region's vision is supported by the public depends largely on the extent of the Province's involvement in and support of the process. We couldn't agree with you more when you speak of moving beyond the 'project by project' funding discussion to find the long-term sustainable funding mechanisms.

Our mutual challenge is therefore reliant on our achieving in the short-term:

- Assisting TransLink's efforts to serve the growing transit needs in the region
- Aligning our collective timelines and tasks into reasonable and achievable steps
- Agreeing on a 2 year funding strategy that removes the risk of reduced service
- Developing a collective vision for transit built on consensus for workable timelines and clear roles for agencies involved in policy and governance within the region
- Ensuring that the governance model within the region is the most responsive to the region's needs

And achieving in the long-term the provision of a sustainable financial and governance structure for Metro Vancouver that is aligned with goals relating to public affordability, a robust economy and the environmental health of the region.

There is much work to be done and I look forward to engaging immediately in reconciling our short-term strategic timelines and developing a mutually agreed upon Regional Transit Vision and work plan for the year ahead.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Walton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Richard Walton FCA  
Chair, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

# Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

## PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Suite 1220, TransLink Offices

4720 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

- |           |   |                    |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Preliminary Matters</b>  | <b>3:00</b>        |
|           | 1.1 Call to Order   |                    |
|           | 1.2 Adoption of Agenda  |                    |
|           | 1.3 Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2012  |                    |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Public Delegations</b>   | <b>3:05 – 3:15</b> |
|           | <i>Since the deadline for delegation requests is two business days prior to the Mayors' Council meeting, a list of delegates will be provided at the meeting.</i> |                    |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Election of the 2013 Chair &amp; Vice Chair</b>  | <b>3:15 – 3:25</b> |
|           | (effective January 1, 2013)   |                    |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Commissioner's Opinion on TransLink's 2013 Base Plan and Outlook (Martin Crilly)</b>   | <b>3:25 – 3:40</b> |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Governance RFP Update</b>  | <b>3:40</b>        |
|           | Verbal report from Mayor Walton, Chair  |                    |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Reimbursement for Chair's Attendance at Transport Futures Conference in Toronto</b>  | <b>3:45</b>        |
|           | Conference agenda attached  |                    |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule</b>   | <b>3:50</b>        |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Other Business</b>   | <b>3:55</b>        |
| <br>      |   |                    |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Termination</b>  | <b>4:00</b>        |



November 28, 2012

His Worship  
Mayor Richard Walton, Chair  
Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation  
4720 Kingsway, Suite 1600  
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Reference: 213582

Dear Mayor Walton:

**Re: Mayors' Council Meeting**

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 2012, inviting me to attend the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation's December 5 meeting and outlining your October 18 motion. I also appreciated the opportunity to discuss next steps with you and Mayor Peter Fassbender on our November 16 call.

As we discussed on our recent call, December 5 is an opportunity to mutually confirm the steps for the Mayors' Council to work closely with TransLink to:

- create a succinct description of the vision for public transportation in Metro Vancouver; and
- identify publicly supported funding mechanisms to achieve the vision.

The vision is critical for the public to understand what they will be asked to pay for. I believe that a succinct description of the vision can be developed quickly by making use of previous work, and it can set the broad picture for TransLink's regional transportation planning work. I also agree that a large amount of information already exists with regard to funding options for the Mayors' Council's consideration and that this work can proceed expeditiously as well. I am prepared for staff from my ministry to provide technical support for these steps; however, any decisions to request new funding tools must come from the Mayors' Council and must be informed by public input.

By working together toward clearly defined objectives, I hope the outcome of the December 5 meeting can be "a framework for a long term funding plan" as called for in the Mayors' Council resolution of October 18, 2012.

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Finally, I strongly support clearly defined milestones and, as stated in my October 16, 2012, letter, I also want to reaffirm that any new funding mechanisms should:

- be affordable for families;
- be regionally sourced;
- avoid potential negative effects on the provincial economy; and
- capture for TransLink a share of the benefits that arise from the substantial investments in Metro Vancouver's transportation system.

I look forward to meeting with you and the other members of the Mayors' Council to further our discussions on funding transit in Metro Vancouver. I would like to attend the Mayors' Council meeting, and my office will follow up with you to confirm.

Sincerely,



Mary Polak  
Minister

Copy to:     Ian Jarvis, CEO  
                 TransLink

                 Nancy Olewiler, Board Chair  
                 TransLink

                 Mayor Peter Fassbender, Vice Chair  
                 Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation





October 16, 2012

His Worship  
Mayor Richard Walton, Chair  
Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation  
4720 Kingsway, Suite 1600  
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Reference: 213318

Dear Mayor Walton:

**Re: TransLink Performance Audit and the Future of TransLink Funding**

I am writing to provide you with a copy of the completed TransLink performance audit. This audit was announced in May 2012 in response to a request from some of the region's mayors to fund transit improvements through efficiency savings before considering new revenue sources.

The draft 2013 TransLink Base Plan includes a number of cost-saving and efficiency measures. These measures built on the recommendations of the TransLink Commissioner and were strengthened by incorporating the early findings of the audit. While both the Commissioner and the audit team observed that the regional transportation network is well managed, the completed audit found an additional \$41 million per year in efficiencies not yet reflected in TransLink's Base Plan. The total potential savings are now \$139 million per year. I expect TransLink will need time to assess and implement the audit recommendations.

While this audit will help TransLink address some of its funding challenges, the reality is that the demand for transit services continues to grow and TransLink's revenues will not meet the demands for existing, much less future, service needs. My predecessor, the Honourable Blair Lekstrom, made significant efforts to find solutions to the funding challenges all of us face with regard to funding public transit in Metro Vancouver. By working together, the Province and Mayors' Council have achieved a number of successes; however, I also realize that we have all shared frustrations in our efforts to fund regional transit expansion for TransLink.

Clearly, we must continue to persevere if the citizens of Metro Vancouver are going to receive the transit infrastructure and services they need now and in the future. Having said this, I think it is important that the people who are asked to pay for public transit in Metro Vancouver first have the opportunity to participate in, and see, the vision for public transit.

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I also know that then Minister Lekstrom heard a clear message from the Mayors' Council that they are best positioned to create that vision for public transit in Metro Vancouver. I have heard the same thing and would like to continue to find ways to fulfill the Mayors' goal to take this leadership role. In this context, I am proposing the following approach.

*1. Create a publicly supported vision for TransLink*

As you know, the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act requires the completion of TransLink's new 30 year *Regional Transportation Strategy* (RTS) by August 1, 2013. I am asking the Mayors' Council to work closely with TransLink to lead, and actively engage the public, in the development of this vision document. I also strongly encourage the Mayors' Council to hire the necessary staff, as is enabled under the Act, for this important work.

The region's mayors can best connect with residents to identify their concerns and to build public support for a sustainable transit system. On that basis, I am prepared to require a Mayors' Council sign-off on TransLink's *Regional Transportation Strategy*.

I note, and am greatly encouraged, that the Metro Vancouver Board passed a resolution last Friday to contribute to the development of TransLink's RTS. Metro Vancouver's expertise in land use planning will enable the RTS to have clear links to Metro Vancouver's *Regional Growth Strategy*.

*2. Create public support for funding mechanisms*

I believe that the public needs to help develop a clear vision for the future of our transportation system before there can be any discussions about asking people to pay for it. Once the vision is complete, I can confirm that the provincial government is prepared to work closely with the Mayors' Council to develop new funding mechanisms for the service and expansion plans in the new 30-year *Regional Transportation Strategy*.

We must be mindful, however, of the effects of these new funding mechanisms and ensure that they are:

- affordable for families;
- regionally sourced;
- avoid potential negative effects on the provincial economy; and
- capture for TransLink a share of the benefits that arise from the substantial investments in Metro Vancouver's transportation system.

I want to assure you that the provincial government will continue to work with TransLink and the Mayors' Council to implement the region's vision for public transportation and to consider new regional funding sources, provided that they are supported by the public. The Province is a significant contributor to transportation and transit in Metro Vancouver. I believe it is important, however, for us to move beyond our approach of "project by project" funding discussions and find long-term sustainable funding mechanisms. We will only be successful in this regard if the public can see, and support, the vision they are being asked to fund.

I look forward to continued discussions with TransLink and the Mayors' Council and would be happy to meet with you to further discuss the approach outlined above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Polak", written in a cursive style.

Mary Polak  
Minister

Attachment

Copy to: Nancy Olewiler, Board Chair  
TransLink

Martin Crilly, TransLink Commissioner

Peter Fassbender, Vice-Chair  
Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation





October 18, 2012

His Worship  
Mayor Richard Walton, Chair  
Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation  
4720 Kingsway, Suite 1600  
Burnaby BC V5H 4N2

Reference: 213441

Dear Mayor Walton:

**Re: Transit in Metro Vancouver**

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation for the straightforward conversations we have had. This letter is a follow up to my letter of October 16, 2012.

There is much to do as we work to develop sustainable approaches that will support future transit needs throughout the Metro Vancouver region. As such, I write to request a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Together with you and your vice- chair, I wish to develop an approach that will achieve the objectives outlined in my letter. Specifically, I want to discuss the future vision for transit throughout Metro Vancouver and begin to identify new funding tools.

I am aware that much work has already been undertaken by the Council and am anxious to review that with you as a means of mapping out next steps. It is my hope that as a result of the work already completed we may have the opportunity to advance our current dialogue significantly.

Please contact my office to arrange a suitable time and location.

On another note, I want to thank you for your invitation to attend a Mayors Council meeting. My office will be in touch with you to make the appropriate arrangements.

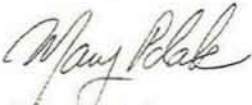
.../2



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I appreciate the difficulties involved with scheduling on short notice. I know you understand my interest in addressing these matters on an expedited basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Polak".

Mary Polak  
Minister

Copy to: Mayor Peter Fassbender  
City of Langley