

Underwood, Victor TRAN:EX

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: May-27-13 10:28 AM
To: s22
Cc: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: 217514 - FYI RE: Commitment to hold referendums on Transit Taxes

Thank you for your expression of support for government's efforts. We will pass your comments on to Premier Christy Clark at the earliest opportunity.

We have also shared your comments regarding transit taxation with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure so that your views are known there and can be included in any related discussions.

Again, thank you for writing.

From: s22
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 12:32 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Commitment to hold referendums on Transit Taxes

Premier Clark,

I am very happy that you won re-election as Premier of BC. I have been pleased with how the Liberal party has run the province.

However, s22 your promise to have any new transit taxes put to a referendum. I have been very frustrated with how those taxes have been levied in the past with very limited public input.

I sincerely hope that you stick to this referendum commitment.

With warmest regards and hope for your success,

s22

Underwood, Victor TRAN:EX

From: s22 on behalf of Lee Haber
<director@getonboardbc.ca>
Sent: June-20-13 11:31 AM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: 217907 Meeting to Discuss Transit Referendum

Hi Todd,

It's Lee from GetOnBoard BC, a broad coalition advocating for better transit in the region and across the province. We briefly met at the cabinet unveiling. I support your initiative in bringing people and ideas together and our organization would love to be a part of that.

My interest in the transportation referendum comes from both being the head of this advocacy group.

s22

s22

I believe this referendum could be a huge win for everyone if we get the question right. I would like to discuss with you the possibilities and challenges that come with this opportunity. I know you are probably more than busy right now, so please let me know when you are available. You can reach me at 778-877-8033.

Cheers,

Lee

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Lee Haber
Campaign Director
GetOnBoard BC
C: 778-877-8033
E: director@getonboardbc.ca

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Underwood, Victor TRAN:EX

From: s22
Sent: June-27-13 1:57 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: 218364 FYI Re: transit 'referendum' intended this fall....

Dear Transpo Minister Stone:

Jun 27, 2013 at 10:07 am

Your Premier-designate has to stop bowing to Port Metro for everything they want and do. \$\$\$ always available somehow, if only to do what is right for the long-term view of public transport, which, if done VERY efficiently, will be used.

ENSURE, in any referendum, a full explanation of where what funds, will be used, after ensuring your ministry said details are accurate. I believe if you do that, the local Mayors will be wrong in their decision.

Lavishing on highways and bridges and not on Rail transit (Port Mann bridge a perfect example, of what could have linked Langley to the Evergreen Line) is the wrongheaded way to bring transit comforts to the public, who put their X on a referendum. Or not.

The developer-hawks are always nesting in the trees waiting to swoop like raptors wherever mass-transit might happen. And then they pollute the problem with more condos, more cars, more stores. With no new streets.

More: Always More. From a More-Headed Society. All geared to the thinking "If I don't...I am not..a Leader"



SEP 24 2013

Reference: 218797

s22

Dear s22

Re: TransLink

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 2013, expressing your support for a referendum on funding for TransLink.

The demand for TransLink service has steadily grown over the past decade, and the region's population is forecasted to grow by another million people over the next three decades. It is becoming increasingly important to find sustainable funding sources and I agree that a transportation funding referendum gives the region's taxpayers the opportunity to decide the best way to pay for the transportation systems the region needs. A referendum will be held no later than the municipal elections in November 2014, as you suggest.

The ministry remains committed to working with representatives of TransLink and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation to find ways to build on our world-class transportation network and meet the demands of a growing population.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

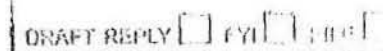
Todd Stone
Minister

July 26, 2013.
BY FAX

The Honourable Minister of Transportation,
Mr. Todd Stone,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.



JUL 29 2013



Re: Translink Funding Referendum.

Dear Sir:

I strongly support your proposal for a referendum on Translink funding.

1. Metro Vancouver Mayors cannot agree on a policing model, transportation model, growth model, or any other model for sensible governance.
2. Giving citizens an opportunity to decide how they want to live their lives is always a good idea. I reject the argument that citizens are too stupid to decide what's right. The mail-in ballot on the HST proves this, as 45% of British Columbians voted in favour, when one would have expected far less support.
3. Translink funding should be removed from property taxes and gas taxes. A Metro Vancouver sales tax should be established for basic transit funding. This can be easily achieved during the next legislative session.
4. A referendum should give Metro Vancouver citizens a choice between road tolls or a vehicle levy for transit infrastructure expansion. I favour tolls on all roadways, but let the people decide during the 2014 municipal elections.
5. Disband the Translink Police Service. What a spectacular waste of money!

Regards,

s22

This communication is confidential and cannot be displayed at any public internet website without the express written consent of the writer.

Underwood, Victor TRAN:EX

From: Jordan Bateman <jbateman@taxpayer.com>
Sent: August-28-13 3:02 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Cc: todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Request for meeting regarding the TransLink referendum

Resent – two weeks now and no reply. Please advise.

Jordan Bateman
B.C. Director
Canadian Taxpayers Federation
<http://www.taxpayer.com>
604-510-5535
<http://www.twitter.com/jordanbateman>
<http://www.facebook.com/jordan.bateman>

From: Jordan Bateman <jbateman@taxpayer.com>
Date: Wednesday, 14 August, 2013 9:44 AM
To: <Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Request for meeting regarding the TransLink referendum

Minister Stone:

First, congratulations on your recent victory and appointment. Transportation and Infrastructure is an outstanding file, with a great team and many interesting challenges – and, as someone who enjoys his political history and has a soft spot for a former Langley/Kamloops pastor nicknamed Flyin' Phil, it's great to see a Kamloopsian back in this portfolio.

I am requesting a meeting with you regarding the TransLink referendum. As you may know, our organization has been highly critical of waste and inefficiency at TransLink and will likely have a leadership role in representing and reaching out to tens of thousands of likeminded taxpayers in the 2014 vote.

We are very supportive of the Premier and your efforts to hold this referendum., despite the naysaying of some mayors.

I am hoping to get some clarity, or provide our opinion, on a few key issues:

1. Referendum timing
2. The necessity of a "no" option for taxpayers to consider
3. Limits on what TransLink can spend to promote their preferred option
4. Not allowing the province or TransLink (or any other government agency) to fund yes or no campaigns

We believe it is important to present our ideas and concerns in person, as the mayors council and other TransLink groups have a very different perspective than ours.

I would be willing to come to Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria or anywhere else that is convenient for you. I am away August 19-25.

Thank you for your time.

Jordan

Jordan Bateman

B.C. Director

Canadian Taxpayers Federation

<http://www.taxpayer.com>

604-510-5535

<http://www.twitter.com/jordanbateman>

<http://www.facebook.com/jordan.bateman>

Underwood, Victor TRAN:EX

From: s22
Sent: August-28-13 3:50 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: Wanton Waste of Public Funds at Translink

Hello Minister Stone,

As a concerned and frustrated BC citizen, I am writing to express my extreme disapproval of the lack of financial responsibility at Translink.

Stories of such waste from Translink has never been rare in BC. News from the last little while, and in particular from the last 2 days, has certainly taken things to a new level. First, we have some "genius" transit advocates suggesting that an additional 0.5% tax should be levied to fund future public transit projects:

<http://www.news1130.com/2013/08/27/transit-advocates-suggest-regional-sales-tax-for-projects/>

Yesterday, the general public found out that in their "infinite wisdom", Translink has decided that it was a wise thing to do to splurge \$165k on some art piece to decorate the Main Street Skytrain station:

<http://www.news1130.com/2013/08/27/artwork-at-main-st-stn-will-be-good-for-community-translink/>

Then today, we find out that Translink has planned to spend yet another \$450k for more art installations at the Metrotown and Commercial-Broadway stations:

<http://vancouver.24hrs.ca/2013/08/27/another-450k-prepared-for-expo-line-art>

As far as I know, Translink is the regional public transit provider, not an art gallery. If I want to look at art pieces, I can very easily go to various art galleries to do that, not stop by a local Skytrain station. Translink's goal should be to provide affordable public transit to all British Columbians, and these idiotic decisions to splurge on art piece do not further that goal.

This wanton splurging is especially infuriating because of Translink's near constant whining to find new sources of funding. With so much waste happening at the organization itself, it is absolutely sickening to see how our public dollars are getting wasted by these incompetent idiots at Translink. Adding further fuel to this fury, the top executives at Translink are earning in excess of \$300k a year, as reported by Global News earlier this month:

<http://globalnews.ca/news/782666/four-top-executives-at-translink-all-received-pay-raises-last-year/>

And as if that wasn't enough, they have just received massive raises to their already sky-high salaries.

As I have mentioned previously, all of these Translink news is absolutely sickening. As BC's Minister of Transportation, I hope you can do something to rein in these greedy, incompetent, and financially irresponsible decision makers at Translink.

a concerned citizen,

s22

Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX

From: James, Ty TRAN:EX
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2013 8:10 AM
To: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: Meeting with s22

From: Quigley, Janta [<mailto:Janta.Quigley@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, July 4, 2013 5:06 PM
To: James, Ty TRAN:EX
Subject: FW: Meeting with s22

Hi Ty,

My emails to Lea keep bouncing. Can you pass this on to her please, referencing our conversation earlier today?

Many thanks,

Janta

From: Quigley, Janta
Sent: July-04-13 5:02 PM
To: Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX
Subject: Meeting with s22

Lea,

I tried to send this at 3:25 and it didn't go through, so I'm trying again.

Thank you very much for calling me back.

s22 would like to request a meeting with Minister Stone regarding the referendum on Translink.

Thank you very much,

Janta Quigley | Legislative Assistant
Government Caucus of British Columbia
P: (250) 387-8150 F: (250) 387-9066

Connect with Caucus:

Website: www.governmentcaucus.bc.ca

Twitter: www.twitter.com/BCLiberalCaucus

YouTube: www.youtube.com/BCGovCaucus

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Sent: November-22-13 12:07 PM
To: s22
Subject: 220502 – George Massey Tunnel

s22

220502 – George Massey Tunnel

Dear s22

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the transit referendum and the recent announcement about plans to replace the George Massey Tunnel with a new bridge.

I appreciated the opportunity to review your thoughts about these matters. With respect to the transit referendum, the demand for transit in Metro Vancouver has steadily grown over the past decade. With the region's population forecasted to grow by another million people over the next three decades, the need to find sustainable funding sources is becoming increasingly important.

A funding referendum will give the region's taxpayers the opportunity to decide for themselves the best way to pay for the transit systems the region needs. I expect a referendum would be held no later than the municipal elections in November 2014.

The ministry remains committed to working with representatives of TransLink and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation to find ways to build on our world-class transportation network and meet the demands of a growing population.

With respect to the George Massey Tunnel replacement project, last year we announced that we would begin developing plans to address problems of congestion and reliability at the tunnel and undertook two phases of highly publicized public consultation with stakeholders and the public. This consultation included open houses and meetings with local mayors and staff from adjacent municipalities. The results of that consultation have been published in reports on the project's web site at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/masseytunnel/>.

For the majority of stakeholders and consultation participants, a new bridge on the existing corridor was the preferred option. We need to address the very significant safety and traffic flow problems that exist along this corridor, and the tunnel is a major bottleneck for traffic. In addition, the existing tunnel has only about 10 years of useful life remaining before major components will need to be completely replaced, and the rehabilitation work that would be needed to keep the existing tunnel would result in very significant and prolonged disruptions to traffic.

A new bridge will dramatically improve safety and the movement of people and goods on a corridor that is vital to commuters and our transportation gateway, allowing improved transit and possible future rapid transit options, as well as measures for enhanced cyclist and pedestrian safety.

Construction of the bridge is expected to begin in 2017. Engineering and technical work is now underway to develop a technical design and business case for the new bridge and associated Highway 99 corridor improvements, to be presented for public discussion next spring. Updates on the project's progress and information about open houses will be posted on the project web site at that time, and I hope you will participate in these discussions.

In the meantime, I have shared your comments with George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project staff. Should you wish to share other feedback or additional questions with the project team, you can do so directly through the feedback form at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/masseytunnel/contact-us/>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Todd Stone
Minister

From s22
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2013 1:56 PM
To: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
Subject: referendum on Massey tunnel/bridge?

Dear Mr Stone,

How exactly is it fair and good policy that needed public transportation improvements must go to a public referendum, yet an extremely expensive Massey Tunnel rebuild gets announced without any mention of a vote? If these projects are important to the region, then they should not be subject to a vote, in my opinion. But surely the need for a vote is at least as relevant in the case of an extremely expensive Massey Tunnel rebuild as it would be for much cheaper mass transport improvements. I feel so upset about the potential damage to the region from a failed referendum, and Ms Clark's announcement today feels so profoundly unfair to me. How can you justify your inequitable policies? Sincerely, s22

s22