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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Light Rail Transit Task Force Invites Input on Local Funding Options

Victoria, BC -

The Capital Regional District (CRD) and BC Transit task force investigating local funding options for Light Rail Transit (LRT) is inviting input on potential options for funding the local share of LRT. The task force will conduct an online survey and sponsor three focus groups to obtain ideas and feedback from community members. Focus groups are scheduled for February 14-16. Anyone interested in applying to participate in a focus group should complete the survey by February 5 to be considered a candidate.

Rapid transit aims to help our region address the needs of a growing population while fostering a sustainable future. The Victoria Regional Rapid Transit Project identifies the LRT route from downtown to Uptown and out to West Shore as the first rapid transit link in the proposed Rapid Transit Network as set out in the Transit future Plan.

The Task Force was formed to identify potential local funding options that can be used to implement projects identified in the Transit Future Plan. More information is available at www.lrtlocalfunding.ca. "We need to hear about the preferences and concerns of the public and stakeholders on local funding options being considered and to identify new options we may not have come across", says Bob Lapham, CRD Planning and Protective Services General Manager and Task Force Chair.

The survey and focus groups aim to identify the preferences and concerns of residents in order to evaluate the options objectively and in accordance with the real needs of communities. Input will help inform the funding recommendations package for consideration by the CRD Board and Victoria Regional Transit Commission later this spring.

Candidates selected to participate in the focus groups will be notified by February 9. Each meeting will last 1.5 hours, include approximately 12 participants and be facilitated by Quay Communications. A meal will be provided. The survey will remain open for submission after February 5. For additional information see the Task Force website at www.lrtlocalfunding.ca. To access the survey, visit

www.lrtlocalfunding.ca/index.php/survey. Comments may be submitted to the dedicated email lrtlocalfunding@crd.bc.ca.

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