



February 10, 2022

Susan Brice, Chair  
Victoria Regional Transit Commission  
520 Gorge Road East  
PO Box 9861  
Victoria BC V8W 9T5

Reference: 308213

Dear Chair Brice:

**Re: Victoria Regional Transit Commission Funding Request**

Thank you for your letter of January 17, 2022, asking the provincial government to provide more funding to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission to help with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The provincial government agrees that public transit is vitally important for providing safe, reliable, sustainable and affordable transportation and supporting economic recovery. It is encouraging to hear that transit ridership in Victoria and across B.C. is increasing. I recognize it will take more time to rebuild ridership closer to levels seen before the start of the pandemic.

The provincial and federal governments are currently exploring the possibility of providing additional funding to support Canada and B.C.'s economic recovery. My colleague the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, is working with her counterparts in other provinces to advocate for more federal funding for transit.

On January 21, 2022, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, met with provincial and territorial Finance Ministers to discuss Canada's economic outlook. Funding for transit was discussed at the meeting, and further discussions regarding this topic were encouraged. A summary of the meeting is on the [federal government's website](#).

I understand that both the BC Urban Mayors' Caucus and TransLink's Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation also plan to advocate for more federal funding. I met with the Caucus recently, and ministry staff have provided information to support them in this effort.

The provincial government remains committed to supporting local governments' public transit operations so that B.C. communities continue to have access to this essential service.

.../2

If you have questions or would like to discuss this topic further, please do not hesitate to contact Jodi Dong, Executive Director of the Transit Branch. She can be reached at 778 698-3399 or [Jodi.Dong@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jodi.Dong@gov.bc.ca) and would be happy to help.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" being more prominent than the last name "Fleming".

Rob Fleming  
Minister

Copy to: Jodi Dong, Executive Director  
Transit Branch