

VOTE YES

IN THE TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT REFERENDUM

The Mayors' Council, representing 23 local elected governments in Metro Vancouver, has developed a common vision and action plan for our transportation system. The Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan will have significant benefits for New Westminster that will **reduce congestion**, **improve transit service**, and **create a more livable community**.

*New Westminster's Mayor and Council have voted unanimously to endorse the Mayors' Council plan, and encourage you to vote **YES** on this important referendum.*

Benefits for New Westminster:



A NEW PATTULLO BRIDGE

A new four-lane, tolled Pattullo Bridge will be safer for all users, provide good connections for pedestrians and cyclists and will limit traffic through New Westminster.



UPGRADES TO THE MAJOR ROAD NETWORK

Additional funding for maintenance and upgrades to our roads, combined with transit improvements, will ease traffic congestion and save drivers 20–30 minutes per day on some of the region's most congested corridors.



INCREASED CAPACITY OF EXPO & MILLENNIUM LINES

Over the next 10 years, 100 new SkyTrain cars will be added which will mean faster and more reliable service.



NEW RAPID TRANSIT SOUTH OF THE FRASER RIVER

Light Rail Transit in Surrey will ease local congestion and the amount of commuters traveling through New Westminster.



INCREASED FREQUENCY OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE

More local buses will mean service every 5-15 minutes on most routes within New Westminster all day as well as increased service in the evening and on weekends.



ADDITIONAL HANDYDART SERVICE

More accessible transit service will be provided for our growing seniors population and those with disabilities.



CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Significant new investment in bike routes and better pedestrian connections to transit will provide residents with healthy and affordable ways to get around.

Why should I vote YES?

Whether you rely on your car or transit, a YES vote will improve transportation across the region, cut congestion and pollution, and help you get to your destination faster and more reliably with fewer delays.

How much will the new tax cost me?

The tax will cost an average household about 35 cents per day, or \$125 per year, based on average spending. The savings from faster travel times and reduced fuel consumption will offset much of that cost.

Why have the mayors selected an increase to the PST?

A small 0.5% increase to the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) was found to be the most fair of the funding source options. It is the most affordable for all households – especially lower income households – the most positive for jobs and the economy, and the most efficient for local businesses to implement and administer. Everyone pays, including residents, businesses, and visitors to the region, just as everyone benefits from the transportation and transit system.

Who will ensure the funds are being spent appropriately?

A YES vote comes with a commitment that an independent auditor will review TransLink's expenditures every year to ensure that additional funding from the Congestion Improvement Tax is spent only on the projects and service increases identified in the Mayors' Council plan.

What happens if I vote No?

A NO vote will result in:

- More congestion and longer commute times for drivers and transit riders
- The economy suffering as it becomes harder to move goods and provide services
- Cutbacks in transit services, including no new buses, SkyTrains, or Light Rail Transit
- Fewer services for seniors and others with special transportation needs
- More pollution and poorer air quality across the region
- Roads and bridges not being maintained as needed
- Pattullo Bridge replacement potentially being delayed

How do I vote?

Beginning March 16, 2015, ballots will be arriving in the mail and residents will have until **May 29th** to vote on the Mayors' Council plan. Please ensure that you are registered to receive a ballot by going to the "Register" link at **www.elections.bc.ca** or calling **1 800 661 8683**.