

330343 – Public transportation

1 message

Minister, TT TT:EX <TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

18 February 2025 at 15:23

To: "j0458@telus.net" <j0458@telus.net>

Cc: "Minister, INF INF:EX" <INF.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, "Minister, MSP MPS:EX" <MSP.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, "Anderson.MLA, George LASS:EX" <George.Anderson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Rick Jelfs, Secretary

Transport Action British Columbia

j0458@telus.net

330343 – Public transportation

Dear Rick Jelfs:

Thank you for your email congratulating me on behalf of Transport Action British Columbia on my appointment as Minister of Transportation and Transit. It is an honour to represent British Columbians in this role.

At the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, we are investing in a forward-looking transportation network that gets people and goods where they need to be—quickly, safely, and dependably. That is why I appreciated you sharing with me your organization's suggestions on ways to better integrate public transportation in B.C.

I understand my predecessor responded to you last September highlighting some of the ways the ministry is working to integrate public transportation services where possible across all modes. This includes working with both BC Transit and TransLink, Metro Vancouver's independent regional transportation authority, to support transit expansion. For example, as you may know, [Budget 2024](#) provides approximately \$4 billion in provincial operating and capital funding over the next three years to support transit expansion across B.C. We are meanwhile continuing to actively work with TransLink to advance priority expansion projects to meet the demands of the Metro Vancouver Region's growing population.

While the ministry continues to consider passenger rail as we work to expand transportation options around the province, we continue to make significant investments to expand bus and SkyTrain infrastructure to ensure people can get to their destinations conveniently and efficiently for decades to come. This includes the Surrey Langley SkyTrain Project, which will extend the Expo Line 16 kilometres primarily along Fraser Highway from King George SkyTrain Station in Surrey to 203 Street in Langley City, as well as our work on the Broadway Subway Project to extend the Millennium Line SkyTrain to Arbutus Street. This is the first

time we will be delivering two SkyTrain extensions at the same time. Together, these two projects will increase the region's existing SkyTrain network by 27 per cent.

It is worth noting that the operation of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway in White Rock is overseen by the federal agency Transport Canada, and not by the provincial government. If you have not already done so, you may wish to share your suggestions with [Transport Canada](#) directly. As my predecessor also mentioned, the former BC Rail line between North Vancouver to Prince George remains under the operational control of CN Rail, who would need to work with the communities located along the corridor to evaluate the feasibility of restoring passenger rail service.

You may be interested to know that the ministry has been working with BC Transit, TransLink and BC Ferries to explore opportunities for service integration between the agencies, as well as ways to improve transportation and land use planning. As part of the transit and ferries integration initiative, the ministry facilitated an exploration process to identify and evaluate potential integration opportunities. This has resulted in the agencies implementing changes to improve service integration such as installing wayfinding signage at ferry terminals, integrating agency processes and improving communication of short-term scheduling impacts.

Ministry staff are meanwhile continuing their review of [the three regional trusts'](#) analyses of inter-city transportation to determine our next steps to address inter-city transportation challenges. I have shared your comments about BC Bus North and transportation services along Highway 16 with the ministry staff involved in this work for their consideration. Ministry staff have also been facilitating meetings with Regional Districts, First Nations, the Island Corridor Foundation and Transport Canada to continue to discuss the future of the Island Rail corridor.

Your email includes many thoughtful ideas for ways to improve transportation integration in B.C., and you can be sure I will keep your feedback in mind as I consider the ministry's existing plans, projects and options in the months ahead.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth

Minister

Copy to: Honourable Bowinn Ma
Minister of Infrastructure
MLA, North Vancouver-Lonsdale

Honourable Brittany Anderson

Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities

MLA, Kootenay Central

George Anderson

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