
Regarding investments to support passenger rail service improvements in British Columbia

1 message

XMS Ministerial Registry Unit / Unité du registre ministériel XMS <XMSMinisterialRegistryUnit-
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To: "j0458@telus.net" <j0458@telus.net>

3 September 2024 at
06:46

September 3, 2024

Rick Jelfs

Secretary

Transport Action British Columbia

j0458@telus.net

Dear Rick:

Thank you for your email of July 23, 2024, to the Minister of Transport, regarding investments to support passenger rail service improvements in British Columbia.

Transport Canada's role in financing infrastructure improvements for the FIFA 2026 World Cup games is determined under the federal policy for hosting international sport events and includes contribution limits to ensure sound use of federal funds. The Government of Canada's contribution for sporting events can reach a maximum of 35% of total event costs and will not exceed 50% of the total public sector contribution to the event. Calculations for determining federal financial support include contributions towards the direct and indirect costs of the bidding or hosting project. More information pertaining to the Government of Canada's role in hosting international sport events can be found [here](#).

The federal contribution for FIFA 2026 was provided to Vancouver, one of the Canadian World Cup host cities, earlier this summer. Federal departments will continue to support the host regions in the delivery of a safe and secure event, and to provide essential federal services within existing mandates and jurisdiction.

In addition, the Government of Canada is committed to providing efficient, affordable, and accessible transportation across the country. This includes continuing to work with VIA Rail, Amtrak, and other rail operators, such as Canadian National. Your suggestions pertaining to the New Westminster Rail Bridge and the Crescent Beach Corridor are appreciated, as Transport Canada is always looking for opportunities to improve supply chain fluidity. It is important to note that, in 2023, the department established the Supply Chain Office to increase efficiency and resiliency across our supply chains, including mitigating impacts from disruptions, such as the ones you mentioned. Transport Canada will consider your comments as we further evaluate options for replacement or refurbishment of the existing bridge and future improvements along that corridor.

Regarding any proposals for passenger rail border facilities in the area, while the conversion of the Vancouver Central Rail Station to preclearance is in progress, the Government of Canada is not directly involved in the planning of additional rail border clearance facilities between Metro Vancouver and the Seattle area at this time. However, we remain supportive of preclearance expansion in all modes of transportation under the Preclearance Agreement on the basis that it is commercially viable, meets the operational needs of the United States Customs and Border Patrol, and is generally supported by local stakeholders.

Your suggestion to relocate the Pacific Central passenger rail operations will be carefully assessed as we continue to assess feasible options to improve intercity passenger transportation in Western Canada. We also encourage you to continue collaborating with municipal and provincial stakeholders, as coordination at local and regional levels is vital when working toward solutions for transportation-related issues.

I hope that this information will be helpful. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Christine

Executive Correspondence Unit

Transport Canada / Government of Canada