

The Cure To Congestion – The Need For Reliable Transportation Funding

DESCRIPTION

Efficient transportation and quality education are the foundations of economic growth and business innovation. Without either, Canada will not be able to thrive in a globally competitive free market. The unreliability of transportation funding, increasing population, and congestion will lead to lower economic growth and stall economic growth.

BACKGROUND

Canada's population is steadily increasing due to immigration, and birthing rates.¹ Investing in better, planned, sustainable funded transit and transportation infrastructure is key to reducing congestion, making life more affordable for Canadians, reducing impact on the environment, helping the Country as a whole. The Metro Vancouver region is leading ridership growth in North America with more than a 20% increase in the number of people taking transit over the last three years.

Due to COVID-19, many businesses have shuttered, leaving people without jobs. Canada needs to increase the number of jobs but providing sustainable, long-term infrastructure investments to shovel-worthy projects. As businesses reopen and our workforce needs to commute, we must be cognizant of the public's perception of safety of public transportation infrastructure, which is being lauded as the green and environmentally friendly alternative to Canada's car culture. If Canada hopes to reduce emissions adequate and sustainable infrastructure investment must be made for public transportation. Without it, we may see more private vehicles on the road, increasing congestion and reversing years of emission reduction investments.

We need to ensure that our transportation infrastructure has adequate, long-term funding to keep up with population growth and innovations.

The Mayors' Council of Metro Vancouver has advocated for a permanent federal transit fund – starting in 2027 – to help meet demand in the future. We can't wait another seven years to take the next steps in expanding Metro Vancouver's transit system. That's why the Mayors' Council is asking the federal government to make an immediate commitment to help us accelerate completion of the final phase of the 10-Year Vision. Other jurisdictions and regions throughout Canada should be afforded the same commitments in order to plan for future job and population growth.

In order to understand the needs of any region throughout Canada, the transportation infrastructure planning processes should be supported regardless of political changes. Transportation infrastructure planning includes a study, which will examine population patterns, public policy initiatives underway or planned, fiscal responsibilities, and other variables. Once the study is complete, it is assumed that the need for annual and long-term funding would become apparent.

A concerted effort with adequate levels of funding from the Federal Government will provide benefits to regions throughout Canada for generations. Half-measures and planning that changes with a change of government will only hurt our business community.

¹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190930/dq190930a-eng.htm>

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Federal Government:

1. Establish a permanent Federal Congestion Relief Fund that provides:
 - a. Reliable, predictable funding over a minimum 10-year term; and,
 - b. Funding for a study of the best technology implementation to relieve congestion.

NOTES

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COMMENTS

ENDORSEMENTS

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Co-sponsored by:

Other Co-sponsors:

² <https://tenyearvision.translink.ca/>