



Regional Transportation Strategy

For the purposes of the *South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act*, this document constitutes the long-term strategy for the regional transportation system in Metro Vancouver, adopted January 2022.

TRANSPORT
2050



TransLink recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples and respects and celebrates the Indigenous Nations on whose treaty lands and unceded territories we are fortunate to live, work, and operate, and recognizes that, in planning and managing the region's transportation system, we have a role to play in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

The standing Welcome Figure was erected by the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) at the site of a Squamish úxwumixw (village) called Seńákw.





The 2050 we want: Access for Everyone

Our Vision: In 2050, everyone can easily connect to the people, places, and opportunities that they need to thrive — because we all have real choices that we can count on, that we can afford, and that we can safely enjoy for generations to come. Our transportation system supports an inclusive, future-ready region that has meaningfully advanced reconciliation.

Message from the Chair of the Mayors' Council and Chair of the TransLink Board of Directors

A Time of Accelerating Change

The past 30 years have been a time of unprecedented change. Dramatic social, environmental, economic, and technological shifts have transformed the world and how we move and live here in Metro Vancouver. Given this pace of change, it's likely the region of tomorrow won't resemble the one of today. It's up to us to come together as a region — just as we've done throughout the past — to actively shape the future we want.

Thirty years ago, the region adopted the Livable Region Strategic Plan and Transport 2021. These foundational strategies laid out a vision for compact growth, transit-oriented communities, and sustainable transportation, forming the basis for the excellent transit and transportation system we have in Metro Vancouver today. With much of what was first proposed in Transport 2021 now delivered, it's time to look forward, together. Transport 2050 provides this outlook and represents a major update to the region's long-term transportation vision.

Challenges and Opportunities

Like all regions, ours faces extraordinary challenges. From the accelerating climate emergency whose destructive impacts we are now

clearly feeling, to the affordability crisis leaving many struggling to stay in this increasingly expensive region, to our country's reckoning with its relationship with Indigenous Peoples, to our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. But each of these challenges also present us with an opportunity to do better — to become the just, equitable, inclusive, and carbon-free region we aspire to be.

A Vision for the Next 30 Years: Access for Everyone

Transport 2050 will help us achieve that aspiration. Together with Metro 2050, the Regional Growth Strategy, and Climate 2050, the region's climate action plan, both of which were developed in tandem with Transport 2050, we have the blueprints that will help us reach our shared regional goals. Oriented around a theme of *Access for Everyone*, Transport 2050 is about making sure that every person in this region has access to the opportunities they need to thrive. To facilitate this inclusive vision, we have proposed making use of many new ideas, such as automated vehicles, as well as some very old ideas, such as people-first streets.

While TransLink facilitated the development of Transport 2050, this strategy includes actions for many partners who have some role to play

in planning, funding, delivering, and managing the region's transportation system. To that end, Transport 2050 provides us with a platform to cooperate like never before. It has laid the groundwork for more collaborative relationships with Indigenous Nations as well as better coordination with our municipal, regional, provincial, and federal government partners.

Later this year, we'll work with our partners to produce a more detailed implementation blueprint confirming the key regional transportation priorities that we'll get started on right away.

Together, we look forward to shaping the transportation future this region wants.



Jonathan X. Coté
Chair, Mayors' Council on
Regional Transportation



Lorraine Cunningham
Chair, TransLink Board of Directors



A Message From Minister George Heyman

I would like to congratulate the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and the TransLink Board of Directors on completing the new Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS), *Transport 2050*, and all those who have worked to get the strategy to where it is today.

Tens of thousands of people contributed to this plan through the public engagement process because they want to shape a better future that includes convenient transportation options that help address climate change, while creating healthy, more equitable and affordable communities. I believe *Transport 2050* delivers on all these fronts.

Our government has been a proud senior partner in developing *Transport 2050* since its inception. I have enjoyed participating in the Policymakers Coordination Forum with colleagues from the Province, TransLink and the Metro Vancouver Regional District to discuss the big policy issues facing the region and the province at large and exploring how we can work together to reach our shared objectives.

The Province is eager to support regional strategies and actions that align with provincial priorities, including integrated land use and transportation planning, climate action, affordability, and improving mobility for people, goods, and services. Our government is supportive of the steps *Transport 2050* takes towards advancing reconciliation and social equity to make it easier for everyone to travel around the region and access opportunities. We are also supportive of enhancing resiliency — at both the individual and transportation network levels — to adapt and thrive in times of change and disruption.

As part of delivering on the goals and targets of *Transport 2050*, I would like to highlight the Province's *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030* and *Homes for B.C.* plans and their importance in the Metro Vancouver region. I expect the implementation of the RTS will support these provincial initiatives. By aligning priorities — such as the shared goal to have 50% of personal trips in the region be made by transit or active transportation modes by 2050 — TransLink and the Province will create a better, cleaner transportation system that will serve generations to come.

As *Transport 2050* moves into implementation, our government will continue working closely with the region to deliver on the long-term goals and targets of the strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. Heyman".

George Heyman
*Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
and Responsible for TransLink*





Recognition of Indigenous Peoples and Voices

TransLink invited the Indigenous Nations with modern treaties and unceded territories within the Lower Mainland, as well as Indigenous organizations, to participate in the Transport 2050 Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC). The Indigenous Nations and Indigenous organizations that were invited to participate in the Transport 2050 IAC are:

- ǵǵǵǵ (Katzie First Nation)
- q'wa:h'á'h (Kwantlen First Nation)
- Kwíkwǵǵǵǵ (Kwíkwetlem First Nation)
- máthxwi (Matsqui First Nation)
- Métis Nation BC
- xwmǵǵǵǵǵǵ (Musqueam Nation)

- qiqéyt (Qayqayt First Nation)
- se'mya'me (Semiahmoo First Nation)
- Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw (Squamish Nation)
- scǵ waθǵn mǵsteyǵxw (Tsawwassen First Nation)
- sǵlǵlwǵtaǵ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society

It should be noted that Tsawwassen First Nation negotiated a modern treaty with a formalized role in decision-making processes through the TransLink Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, per the *South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act*.

Indigenous Nations and Indigenous organizations were offered opportunities to participate in the Transport 2050 IAC and to provide input on the Transport 2050 engagement process and the development of the draft Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) through group meetings, individual meetings, and written submissions.

Through the engagement process on the draft RTS, key interests, issues, and priorities were expressed by the Transport 2050 IAC as follows:

Service Provision

- Transportation services to on-reserve communities
- Improved transportation services to treaty lands
- Improved accessibility for people utilizing bicycles to access transportation services near on-reserve communities
- Improved accessibility for people with disabilities and mobility challenges
- Safe and well-lit access to transportation, including bus shelters, pedestrian walkways, and transit facilities
- Consideration for improved security on transportation services

- Improved recruitment and retention of Indigenous employees
- Improved cultural awareness training for staff and decision-makers
- Cultural recognition and public education

Project Consultation and Engagement Processes

- Engagement in early transportation system planning, land use, and environmental management processes
- Inclusion of Indigenous cultural and archaeological knowledge and permitting processes

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Indigenous Nations and Indigenous organizations that have participated in the Indigenous Advisory Committee and helped shape the strategies and actions that we will implement together, with support from our partners, over the coming years.

Recognition, Representation, and Governance

- Representation of Indigenous Nations in governance and decision-making
- Recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples

Actions that advance reconciliation with Indigenous communities can be found in Parts E (Strategies and Actions) and F (Implementation Approach), and are shown with this icon:



For a summary of all Indigenous reconciliation-related actions, see Part K (Thematic Index).

TransLink's Commitment to Advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Communities

This Transport 2050 strategy contains the broad transportation policy direction expected to guide the actions of many governments and agencies working to plan, deliver, and operate Metro Vancouver's regional transportation system, including actions related to reconciliation with Indigenous Nations and Peoples.

Commitment and Understanding

As the region's transportation authority, TransLink recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as Indigenous Nations. TransLink is committed to advancing reconciliation through the implementation, by all levels of government, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. It is a commitment to supporting the fundamental paradigm shift required to dismantle the systemic racism, discrimination, and disparity faced by Indigenous peoples in our society today.

TransLink acknowledges that reconciliation means something different to each Indigenous Nation, community, and individual. We recognize that our actions, intended to advance reconciliation, will be tailored to reflect that Indigenous communities have distinct and unique cultures, interests in governance, rights, histories, languages, and traditions. Like our relationship with Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples, our understanding of the meaning of reconciliation, and its application to our work, will grow and evolve over time.

The Past

Most of the reserve lands throughout British Columbia are not connected to regional transportation networks. This lack of transportation services for Indigenous communities is founded in systemic racial discrimination caused by historical Canadian federal laws, policies, and practices, and complex jurisdictional restrictions. Indigenous communities were purposefully isolated from society, causing marginalization, economic disparity, and impacts on the health and safety of Indigenous Peoples. TransLink collectively acknowledges that past decisions have shaped our region's current transportation system, including access and mobility options being unavailable for many Indigenous communities.

The Future

Through engagement with Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples on Transport 2050, TransLink has heard that meaningfully advancing reconciliation is reliant on telling the truth. Reflecting that access for Indigenous Peoples is deeply rooted in this history, and with *Access for Everyone* as the theme for Transport 2050, TransLink commits to acting to address access to the transportation system for Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples.

Access for Everyone is about making sure that every person living in our region can conveniently, reliably, affordably, safely, comfortably, and cleanly connect to the opportunities they need to thrive. *Access for Everyone* includes Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples.

TransLink acknowledges that building mutually beneficial relationships and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples is overdue. Looking forward to the years ahead, there is significant work to be done to foster inclusivity and collaboration with Indigenous Peoples that advances reconciliation within the region.

TransLink knows that demonstrating a commitment to reconciliation requires action. This Regional Transportation Strategy sets out specific actions that we commit to working with Indigenous Nations to implement over the next 30 years. Among these actions, a priority will be to initiate work with Indigenous Nations, federal, and provincial governments, and transportation partners to explore and implement multimodal transportation solutions that provide more equitable access to on-reserve communities. This includes a review with the Tsawwassen First Nation to identify actions for ongoing improvement of the effectiveness of transit service as well as multimodal access.

TransLink understands that it will take long-term sustained commitment and ongoing actions to gain the trust and confidence of Indigenous communities. TransLink extends gratitude to the Indigenous Nations and Indigenous Peoples in our region for the opportunity to build a better future, together.



The Burrard Chinook SeaBus, launched in 2021, is wrapped in art designed by local Indigenous artists

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