



June 20, 2022

Board of Directors
Fairfield Gonzales Community Association
1330 Fairfield Road
Victoria BC V8S 5J1

Reference: 309892

Dear Board of Directors:

Re: Transit and Safety in Fairfield Gonzales

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 2022, regarding transit service and traffic safety in Victoria's Fairfield Gonzales community.

The provincial government is investing in transit services and facilities in the Victoria region to encourage more residents to use transit, which improves mobility, lowers emissions and reduces congestion. While the provincial government shares transit costs in Victoria with local governments, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission is responsible for decisions on transit routes and service levels. You may wish to share your request for improved transit service in Fairfield Gonzales with members of the commission, who can be reached by e-mail at Victoria_Commission@bctransit.com. They welcome comments and feedback from local organizations like yours.

Our government continues to work in partnership with various levels of government and First Nations to expand public transit, including bus service and rapid transit. The budget for this fiscal year provides for operating grants of up to \$139.8 million to BC Transit and \$75.8 million in capital grants. This investment will help transit operators expand service, including adding annual service hours in Victoria and other communities.

Over the next three years, the provincial government is projected to provide \$419.5 million in operating contributions and \$316 million in capital contributions to BC Transit, including funding for the provincial share of projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in BC Transit communities.

On April 4, 2022, we announced that the provincial and federal governments are providing \$204 million of financial relief to BC Transit and TransLink. This funding will help protect service levels while ridership recovers from the pandemic and will ensure B.C.'s public transit systems remain strong.

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Regarding your concerns about safety, you can be sure the ministry is committed to protecting vulnerable road users. On our [Road Safety Strategy](#) webpage, you can find more about the tools, campaigns and enforcement programs that are helping move B.C. closer to our vision of zero serious injuries or fatalities on the road. With respect to reducing speeds in urban areas, municipalities are empowered to adjust speed limits without provincial intervention on municipal roads within their borders.

Fighting climate change and reducing the use of vehicles is also important to the provincial government. As you may know, our [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) outlines a plan to increase the share of trips made by walking, cycling and transit to 30 per cent by 2030, while reducing kilometres driven by personal vehicles by 25 per cent compared to 2020. To support these goals, our ministry prioritizes expanding active transportation and public transit whenever we build new infrastructure, undertake major rehabilitation projects or plan regional transportation strategies. Improvements can include such things as separated multi-use pathways or wider shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as transit priority signals and queue jump lanes at intersections.

To help us reach our CleanBC goals, the Province is undertaking a Clean Transportation Action Plan to look at strategies to reduce emissions in every part of the transportation sector. The plan will be released in 2023.

You may be interested to know that the Province also helps communities build active transportation facilities through our [grant program](#), focusing on facilities that target all ages and abilities to encourage people to choose active transportation instead of driving. As part of [Budget 2022](#), the budget for this program has been increased by 67 per cent to \$60 million over the next three years.

The provincial government, through BC Transit, is proud to help deliver safe, accessible and affordable transit service in 130 communities outside of Metro Vancouver. We contribute more per person to operate public transit than any other province or territory in Canada. This helps keep transit affordable for riders and local governments.

On September 1, 2021, our government made [public transit free for children 12 and under](#). This provides families across the province with more affordable transportation options. It will also help create a generation of lifelong transit users and contribute to a healthier environment.

I hope you find this information helpful. Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming".

Rob Fleming
Minister