

B.C. on the Move

A 10-Year Transportation Plan



**BC JOBS
PLAN**



MARCH 2015

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PREMIER'S MESSAGE



*Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia*

British Columbians have built a strong, diverse economy, with people in every part of the province working to build a prosperous and sustainable future.

While British Columbia has many competitive advantages – including a strategic position as Canada's Pacific Gateway and abundant natural resources, such as natural gas – we need to work to maximize our potential.

In September 2011, I introduced the *BC Jobs Plan* to help strengthen the economy. Since then, more than 70,000 jobs have been created through our focus on eight key sectors, including Transportation. I also launched *The Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy 2012–2020*, and we've made a lot of progress since then.

The growth of our economy relies on a safe, reliable and efficient multi-modal transportation network. With *B.C. on the Move: A 10-Year Transportation Plan*, we have identified priorities for improvements to the transportation network that will grow the economy, meet the needs of our growing population, and support expanding resource sectors. This includes investing \$2.5 billion over the next three years in transportation infrastructure.

While *B.C. on the Move* lays out clear actions for the Province to take, strong partnerships are key to success. Provincial investment in the transportation system can be enhanced by fully leveraging funding available under federal infrastructure programs and by developing cost-sharing partnerships with other levels of government and the private sector.

The *New West Partnership* – a collaborative effort between the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan – represents an opportunity for British Columbia to continue to work to develop a renewed cost-sharing partnership with Canada and the private sector to maximize Canada's export capacity, expand and diversify trade relationships, and improve transportation infrastructure.

Through these partnerships – and with investments as part of *B.C. on the Move* – we will continue to ensure that we grow our economy, create jobs for British Columbians and maintain our high quality of life.

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



*Honourable Todd Stone,
Minister of Transportation
and Infrastructure*

British Columbians rely on our transportation network every day – to get to work or school, to access services, and to stay connected to each other and to the world. Along with getting us to where we need to go, transportation generates employment and underpins job creation and economic development. Recognizing that the world wants what we have, and consistent with the *BC Jobs Plan*, transportation is a critical part of our effort to expand and open new international markets for key B.C. sectors such as natural resources, tourism, manufactured goods, agri-food and international education.

We recognize the importance of transportation for the economic health of our province and the well-being of our citizens. I am very pleased to present *B.C. on the Move: A 10-Year Transportation Plan*. This plan sets out a series of priorities, including almost \$2.5 billion in provincial investment over the next three years, focused on moving people and goods safely, growing the economy, and strengthening communities.

Our government has worked hard to develop *B.C. on the Move* – making sure it reflects the needs and priorities of British Columbians. From Oct. 14 to Dec. 12, 2014, we asked British Columbians to provide their feedback on B.C.'s transportation priorities over the next 10 years with the *B.C. on the Move* engagement. During the engagement, the *B.C. on the Move* website was visited over 44,000 times and we received over 12,500 survey responses from citizens all over the province. Over 100 meetings were held with over 550 representatives of First Nations, local governments, chambers of commerce, port and airport authorities, and other interested stakeholders. I also hosted a Twitter Town Hall. In addition, my Parliamentary Secretary, MLA Jordan Sturdy, met with over 70 groups on Vancouver Island in early September, hearing first-hand the transportation needs of Island communities.

I want to thank all British Columbians who took the time to participate in the engagement. This was an unprecedented opportunity for citizens to join in the conversation and let government know about their most pressing transportation needs. As we implement the plan, we will continue to engage with British Columbians, and ensure that we make the best use of every dollar we invest along the way. After all, a safe, efficient and cost-effective transportation network is the backbone of our strong economy and our high quality of life.

Honourable Todd Stone

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

The priority actions in this plan will be key to our transportation investments and strategic policy actions over the next 10 years. This plan will enhance our safety, mobility and connectivity, allowing us to keep pace with our many expanding sectors and ensuring that our transportation improvements remain affordable.

1) Rehabilitating Highways, Bridges and Side Roads

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- Invest \$380 million over the next three years to resurface provincial highways
- Increase investment to \$180 million over the next three years to repair and replace provincial bridges
- Increase investment to \$270 million over the next three years to improve the condition of provincial side roads
- Invest \$60 million over the next three years to upgrade roads in northeastern B.C. in support of the natural gas industry
- Explore opportunities to maintain public access to resource and back-country roads
- Invest \$9 million over the next three years for new and upgraded rest areas throughout B.C.

2) Improving Highway Safety

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- Invest \$75 million over the next three years in a new Road Safety Improvement Program
- Invest \$30 million over the next three years in intersection safety improvements in communities throughout B.C.
- Work with provincial policing agencies and other incident-response partners to reduce the duration of highway closures
- Undertake a review of the traffic management and safety aspects associated with pulling drivers over in traffic
- Enhance and improve Driver Information Systems
- Continue to develop and implement strategies to improve roadside worker safety
- Implement strategies for drivers to stay out of the left lane and not impede other traffic
- Enable municipalities to allow motorcycle parking near intersections
- Introduce new regulations to clarify the definition of winter tires and traction devices
- Work with ICBC to explore opportunities to allow drivers more choices to use slow-moving vehicles and other mobility devices in smaller communities
- Improve public safety in B.C.'s "party bus" and limousine industry

3) Improving Highway Capacity and Reliability

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- Invest approximately \$1 billion over the next three years to ensure our network has the capacity and reliability to meet transport and trade needs, with maximum safety and minimal delays and uncertainties
- *Highway 1 – Kamloops to the Alberta Border*
 - ▶ Continue to advance four-laning projects between Kamloops and Golden
 - ▶ Pursue federal partnership funding to enable completion of the final four kilometres of the Kicking Horse Canyon Project
 - ▶ Deliver projects to improve highway reliability, with a specific focus on improving avalanche infrastructure
- *Okanagan Valley Highways*
 - ▶ Continue project planning and initiate community engagement for a future second crossing of Okanagan Lake, including assessment of the Highway 97 corridor through the communities of Kelowna, West Kelowna and Peachland
 - ▶ Construct new passing lanes and four-laning on highways throughout the Okanagan Valley, including six-laning through Kelowna
 - ▶ Construct intersection improvements, new interchanges, and safety improvements on highways and roads throughout the Okanagan Valley
- *Highway 3 – Crowsnest*
 - ▶ Construct realignments and new passing lanes on sections of Highway 3 between Hope and Princeton and from Cranbrook to the Alberta border
 - ▶ Work with communities along the corridor to improve safety through their downtown cores
- *Highway 5 – Yellowhead – Kamloops to Tête Jaune Cache*
 - ▶ Construct additional passing lanes between Kamloops and Tête Jaune Cache to promote safety and efficiency
- *Highway 97 – Cariboo Connector*
 - ▶ Complete the final four projects announced under Phase 2, including four-laning south of Williams Lake, and initiate planning for future priority projects
- *Northwest B.C./Highway 16 – Yellowhead*
 - ▶ Construct passing lanes on highways 16 and 37 in the northwest and around Prince George, and take action to reduce rail/road conflicts
- *Northeast B.C./Highways 97 North and 2*
 - ▶ Continue to four-lane highways 97 and 2 from the Alberta border to Fort St. John, and construct new passing lanes north of Fort St. John
- *Vancouver Island Highways*
 - ▶ Deliver upgrades to reduce congestion and improve commuter mobility along Highway 1 between Langford and Victoria
 - ▶ Work in partnership with local communities to deliver projects to improve access to and from provincial highways and traffic flow through communities
 - ▶ Plan and deliver key highway safety improvements in locations such as Highway 4 west of Port Alberni and the Malahat corridor of Highway 1

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

3) Improving Highway Capacity and Reliability

continued

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- **Lower Mainland Highways**
 - ▶ Advance development of the George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project
 - ▶ Initiate design for future construction of six-laning on Highway 1 from Langley to Abbotsford
 - ▶ Work with communities to plan and deliver highway interchange and overpass projects throughout the Lower Mainland
 - ▶ Construct highway widening, capacity, safety and operational improvements on provincial highways throughout the Lower Mainland

4) Delivering a Provincial Trucking Strategy

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- Upgrade and replace structures such as bridges and overpasses, so they can accommodate the increasingly heavy and large loads that industry needs to transport
- Work with industry to expand the number of provincial highway corridors pre-approved for the transport of 85- to 125-metric-tonne loads
- Streamline permitting and reduce the number of truck permits required while ensuring commercial vehicle safety
- Work with industry to identify priority locations for new and expanded parking, staging, inspection pullouts and chain-up/off areas for trucks on key corridors throughout B.C.
- Undertake a review of B.C.'s pilot-car requirements
- Support the Office of the Independent Container Trucking Commissioner

5) Investing in Transit

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Provincial Transit Services

- Maintain the highest level of operating support for transit in Canada, with the Province providing BC Transit with \$312 million in operating contributions over the next three years
- Partner with local communities throughout the province to replace half of BC Transit's fleet (about 500 buses) over the next five years
- Partner with local communities to build transit infrastructure to provide more efficient operations and improved transit services
- Continue to seek opportunities to deploy compressed natural gas (CNG) buses in communities throughout the province

Metro Vancouver Transit Services

- Fund one-third of the cost of new rapid transit projects, and the Pattullo Bridge, provided they can be accommodated within the provincial fiscal plan and the investments are supported by a business case
- Work with the region to secure federal funding for rapid transit projects

6) Investing in Cycling

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- Invest \$18 million over the next three years to partner with communities to build new bike lanes and trails throughout B.C.
- Widen shoulders, double the frequency of sweeping and implement safety improvements on provincial highways in areas with a high volume of cyclists
- Develop and implement a cycling tourism signage and marketing strategy

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

7) Investing in Airports

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- Invest \$24 million over the next three years in the new B.C. Air Access Program
- Support development of the aviation industry near B.C. airports
- Engage the federal government to enhance B.C.'s aviation sector

8) Enabling Efficient Ports and Rail

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- Determine potential infrastructure upgrades needed to support Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- Facilitate Port of Kitimat development with port structure and governance models that support economic activity
- Invest in infrastructure that enhances access to ports and increases port bulk, breakbulk and container capacity
- Invest in infrastructure that enhances efficiency of goods movement by rail
- Explore options for the revitalization of the Belleville Terminal in Victoria

9) Sustaining and Renewing Ferries

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- Continue to pursue strategies to achieve the vision of an affordable, sustainable and efficient coastal ferry service
- Continue to engage the federal government to secure additional federal funding support for B.C.'s coastal ferry service
- Continue to renew inland ferry assets

10) Building Partnerships with First Nations

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- Partner with First Nations on projects that support economic development on their lands
- Facilitate more employment and training opportunities for First Nations through the ministry's major projects
- Reconcile outstanding highway tenure issues

11) Improving Accessibility

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- Upgrade rest areas throughout B.C. to improve accessibility for persons with limited mobility, such as curb letdowns, accessible washrooms and other improvements
- Increase the number of wheelchair-accessible taxis in communities throughout B.C.
- Partner with TransLink to make additional accessibility upgrades to SkyTrain stations, including adding new and improved elevators and escalators, and removing any barriers to movement
- Continue to work with BC Transit to improve transit service accessibility for people with disabilities
- Encourage BC Ferries to continue to improve accessibility at terminals and on vessels for people with disabilities

12) Protecting the Environment

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- Continue to invest in transit and cycling programs
- Invest \$6 million over the next three years to conserve habitat and improve fish and wildlife protection
- Invest \$3.9 million over the next three years to deliver invasive plant management programs
- Deliver 1.8 million square metres of hot-in-place recycle paving every year
- Promote the use of cleaner fuel alternatives, such as natural gas for heavy-duty commercial vehicles, CNG for buses and LNG for ferries

INTRODUCTION



British Columbians are linked to each other and to the world by an integrated transportation network that moves people and goods by road, rail, air and sea. Transportation is key to B.C.'s success – in 2013, it contributed \$10.8 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) and directly employed more than 121,000 people.

In response to evolving transportation needs, we are moving forward with a new 10-year plan, *B.C. on the Move*.

This plan provides a comprehensive road map for transportation investments and strategic policy actions over the next 10 years. The plan presents a series of priorities for action to improve the provincial transportation network and showcases several short- to medium-term investments.

Over the next three years, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will invest almost \$2.5 billion to improve British Columbia's transportation network. This plan will build on the success of our government's 2003 transportation plan, *Opening Up B.C.*, which resulted in new infrastructure investment throughout the province, improving safety and reliability and growing the economy.

B.C. on the Move reinforces government's commitment to invest in transportation infrastructure in every corner of the province. This plan will enhance our safety, mobility and connectivity, allowing us to keep pace with our rapidly expanding resource sectors and ensuring that transportation improvements remain affordable.