



December 7, 2022

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming:

Thank you for agreeing to continue to serve as Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

Our province is growing rapidly, and with that historic level of growth, pressure on our transportation infrastructure has grown too. Time sitting in a car in traffic means time away from family and friends, or time not spent helping to build a strong and secure province. That's why our government is emphasizing building the transportation links needed to move British Columbians and vital goods around our province quickly, efficiently, and in a way that supports our climate goals. Clean, fast, and efficient transportation is what all British Columbians deserve, and what we should strive to deliver for them.

From trains and planes to trucks and ships, British Columbia is the gateway to Canada for many countries around the world. Our ports, roads, and rail infrastructure need to respond to ever-increasing demand as we experience significant economic growth, to ensure both that we're keeping up, and that we'll remain economically strong in the future despite global uncertainty.

Building our infrastructure to withstand a changing climate is essential, as washed-out roads in our mountains demonstrated during last year's atmospheric river events. By working with labour, roadbuilders, First Nations, and British Columbians, we can learn lessons from the rapid and remarkable efforts that rebuilt those roads in record time to re-open vital transportation links. These lessons will help us improve the speed, efficiency and cost of the transportation systems we'll need to build to be successful in the future.

Since 2020, our government has made considerable progress on important initiatives including:

- Making public transit a priority. Transit is now free for children 12 and under in B.C. We have hit milestones in the construction of the new Surrey-Langley Skytrain and made major investments in Metro Vancouver transit improvements.
- Ensuring people in rural, remote and Indigenous communities throughout Northern B.C. have access to safe, reliable transportation services through the expansion of community shuttle bus services and BC Bus North.
- Supporting communities to build and improve networks for cycling, walking and active transportation.
- Building greener and more livable communities by amending the *Transportation Act* to allow B.C. to acquire land to build housing and community amenities to serve people near transit stations and bus exchanges.
- Making significant progress on major transportation infrastructure, including the Fraser River Tunnel replacement project and the Patullo Bridge replacement.
- Rapidly repairing damage after the devastating floods in late 2021, including the re-opening the Coquihalla to commercial vehicles between Hope and Merritt in just over a month after seven bridges had completely collapsed or had been heavily damaged.

As you continue to make progress on items in your previous mandate letter, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Widen the Highway 1 corridor through the Fraser Valley, ensuring a more integrated transportation corridor with greater capacity and inclusion of transit and active transportation amenities, and assess extension to Chilliwack.
- Continue progress on the Fraser River Tunnel Project, endorsed by the region, to replace the aging George Massey tunnel, starting with a new Steveston Interchange
- In collaboration with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, complete the Clean Transportation Action Plan to support shifts to sustainable modes of travel, advance modern transportation systems, and help meet our ambitious greenhouse gas targets for the transportation sector.

- Continue working with communities to expand their networks of active transportation to meet our CleanBC goal of doubling trips taken by walking, biking and other kinds of active networks by the year 2030.
- Work with cabinet colleagues, communities and regions to assess and support the planning of transit projects to reduce commute times for fast growing urban areas.
- With support from the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit, work with the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation to advance the Surrey-Langley and UBC SkyTrain projects.
- Work with industry partners on StrongerBC's goods movements strategy to ensure a resilient system that gets goods and services to people when they need it, where they are.
- Work with First Nations, local governments, and the federal government to advance rural transportation solutions.
- Work with the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation to advance solutions on transportation challenges on the north shore, including Burrard Inlet Rapid Transit.
- Work with the BC Ferries Commissioner to ensure the best possible service with lowest possible fares for the people who rely on these ferry services.
- With support from the Ministers of Housing and Municipal Affairs, complete the Transit Oriented Development framework to advance sustainable communities along transit corridors to help achieve our housing and affordability goals.
- Improve timing and transparency of permitting processes to support housing and sustainable economic development while maintaining high levels of environmental protection, aligned with cross-government work on permitting led by the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier