
NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
2016TRAN0203-001329
July 21, 2016

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Better public transit for Campbell River with federal and provincial funding

CAMPBELL RIVER – Improved infrastructure and modernized technology are topping the list of BC Transit projects for Campbell River soon to roll out under phase one of the new Public Transit Infrastructure Fund, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Todd Stone announced yesterday.

This announcement is part of a series of announcements being made to unveil details of the almost \$160 million in federal and provincial funding for BC Transit projects that was first announced in June with Premier Christy Clark and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Campbell River is set to receive a boost to transit infrastructure with a new and expanded transit operations and maintenance facility. The \$15 million project will position Campbell River to meet the growing demand for transit in addition to improving operational efficiencies. The new transit facility will be designed and built for future growth based on the city's approved Transit Future plan and has a project completion date of March 2019.

Also prioritized are technology enhancements to transit vehicles that will pave the way for a better customer experience from beginning to end. Modernizations to buses include closed circuit TV to increase the safety of passengers and drivers, and automatic passenger counters that will enable BC Transit to optimize service delivery based on informed data.

This is the first phase of the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund and provides BC Transit-served communities with \$90 million in funding from the federal government and \$67.8 million from the province with local governments contributing an additional 17% to fund new capital projects in their regions over the next three years.

BC Transit will continue to work with local governments to identify priority projects for the second phase of the federal-provincial funding.

In partnership with local governments, BC Transit provides access to public transit to more than 1.6 million British Columbians in 130 communities outside Metro Vancouver. As a result of our commitment to transit in B.C., communities with as few as 1,000 people have access to transit making BC Transit a unique service for smaller communities anywhere in Canada.

The province also provides the highest level of operating funding support, per capita, for transit in Canada.

Quotes:

Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure –

“This funding for a new, expanded transit facility will enable Campbell River to meet current demand for public transit, while allowing room for growth down the road. As B.C.’s population and economy continues to grow, transit infrastructure needs to keep pace. This investment will help meet rising demand, ease congestion, lower our carbon footprint, and enhance our quality of life.”

Michelle Stilwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation and MLA for Parksville-Qualicum –

“Public transit is essential to the lives of many British Columbians – we depend on access to safe, reliable transit to commute to work or school, to access services and activities, and to connect with friends and family. This investment will ensure that residents of Campbell River continue to enjoy their commute for generations to come.”

Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley –

“This investment in a new transit operations facility for Campbell River is vital for the growth of the community. The introduction of new vehicle technologies such as closed circuit TV will increase the safety of our transit operators and customers, improving the overall customer experience.”

Andy Adams, Mayor of Campbell River –

“This investment in a new transit operations facility for Campbell River is a key component for the growth of our community and our ability to implement community-identified priorities in our Transit Future Plan. We are also excited by the investment in technology enhancements that will support our continued focus on a safe and efficient transportation network.”

Manuel Achadinha, president and CEO of BC Transit –

The investments in a new transit facility and modernized technology will ensure the City of Campbell River is positioned to support efficient and effective transit services that meet the growing needs of the community.”

Quick Facts:

- The bilateral Public Transit Infrastructure Fund agreement provides BC Transit with \$90 million in funding from the federal government and \$67.8 million from the province with local governments contributing an additional 17% of funding for new capital projects in their regions over the next three years.
- In the past, local governments have been responsible for approximately 50% of the funding for these projects.
- Phase one prioritizes projects that include:
 - New Infrastructure: Bus depots, maintenance yards, operations facilities and new CNG fuelling stations.
 - New buses: Investments in more efficient buses including cleaner burning CNG-fuelled buses, new buses for HandyDART service expansion, and replacement buses.
 - New technology: Buses to be equipped with CCTV to enhance safety for passengers and drivers, automatic passenger counters and real-time information to provide

data to improve transit operating efficiencies.

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect