



District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2014 #14-14

For further information, contact:

Mayor Ernie Daykin at 604-463-5221

edaykin@mapleridge.ca

Mayors' Council Backs Northeast Sector Transportation Recommendations

Maple Ridge, BC: In a vote held on June 12, the Regional Mayor Council on Regional Transportation voted to accept recommendations to enhance transportation options for citizens living in the Northeast sector of Metro Vancouver. The communities impacted by these proposals include Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Port Coquitlam, Anmore and Belcarra.

"I've been working closely with my colleagues in Port Coquitlam and Pitt Meadows to ensure that our citizens benefit from regional investments in improving our transportation network. Specifically, we are looking for the development of a 'rapid bus' service that would run from Maple Ridge's Town Centre through Pitt Meadows and Port Coquitlam to connect to the new Evergreen Line that's currently under construction," said Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin. He continued, "In addition to this new rapid bus service, Mayor Moore, Mayor Walters and I are unanimous in our resolve to build on our current investment in the West Coast Express by increasing the capacity of this popular service. We have all been working closely together to advocate for improvements to the road network, transit service and the cycling and pedestrian capacity in the Northeast Sector."

Recommendations coming from the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation that impact Maple Ridge citizens include;

- a. West Coast Express (WCE) capacity upgrades to meet the projected population growth and increased service demands. With the opening of the Evergreen Line in 2016, ridership of the WCE is expected to jump. The plan calls for the addition of 10 new fleet vehicles and one new locomotive by 2024.
- b. Rapid bus service, often referred to as the 'B-Line' that would run from Maple Ridge's Town Centre directly along Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road with key stops in Pitt Meadows and Port Coquitlam leading directly to the new Evergreen Line.
- c. Increased transit service to expand the basic coverage in areas such as Albion and Silver Valley to feed the Town Centre Transit Exchange
- d. Road investment funding that will share the costs of improvements, enhancements and maintenance of the Major Road Network in the region.

- e. Cycling and pedestrian improvements including improvements to the pedestrian amenities around major transit hubs and increased capacity and infrastructure along the region's growing cycling network and bike parking at transit nodes.

“As the report notes, congestion is bad for our economy, it erodes family time, it's bad for the air we breathe. By every possible evaluation method, the need for investments in our overall transportation network needs to happen in a coordinated and systematic way. Maple Ridge is a fast growing community in a region that is experiencing rapid growth. I'm very proud that the Mayors' Council has recognized the needs of our community in this comprehensive blueprint for the regional transportation network,” said Mayor Daykin. “I've been working closely with Mayor Walters in Pitt Meadows and Mayor Moore in Port Coquitlam and we share a common resolve and determination that the projects outlined for the Northeast Sector are critical to our community's future,” he concluded.

For more information about the overall recommendations of the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and the Northeast Sector issues please go to mayorscouncil.ca. If you have any questions about the Northeast Sector and Maple Ridge portion of the plan please contact Mayor Ernie Daykin at edaykin@mapleridge.ca or call 604-463-5221.