

Transport and Transit

Everyone should be able to get to where they need to go—safely, efficiently, reliably and affordably.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

The way we choose to travel shapes our province, our cities and our daily lives. Offering people more options for transportation benefits the economy, supports the environment, and improves public health.

We believe in induced demand—and that people will use transportation infrastructure if it exists. We cannot build our way out of congestion. But we can make fast, frequent and free public transit a reality. We can build cities that welcome people who use wheelchairs and mobility scooters. We can make cycling safe and accessible. And we can have buses and trains as viable choices across the entire province.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Our transport choices contribute significantly to climate change. Transport emitted 21.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2021, 34.8 percent of total emissions. Passenger trucks and cars were the biggest share of that, yet consecutive governments have continued to subsidize car travel at a rate of four times that of transit.

Our transportation system heavily subsidizes car drivers while underinvesting in public transit, cycling, ferries, trains and inter-regional buses. TransLink has warned that without more funding, transit services in Vancouver could be cut by up to 50% as soon as next year.

Outside of urban centres, the challenges are even more profound. In many parts of the province, public transit is either nonexistent or so infrequent that it's not a viable option for most people. And despite recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, bus service along Highway 16 remains inadequate.

Transport is also expensive. On average, households in BC spend \$10,879 a year on transportation, with 85% of that going towards private cars.

The benefits of a well-functioning transportation system are substantial, with returns of up to \$5 for every \$1 invested in public transit.

Mobility is good for business.



The BC Greens will make all public transit free for riders.

- We will implement a free public transit system for all people in British Columbia.

We commit to delivering regular bus services across British Columbia.

- We will ensure at least hourly service for key routes and at least four services per day on all other routes.
- We will double the number of buses within three years, and triple within six.

We will provide immediate funding for TransLink to maintain and expand service levels in 2025.

- Allocate funds to address existing public transit infrastructure and operational needs across the region.

We will require the Government to spend at least as much on public transit, walking, and cycling as on highway infrastructure and operations.

- Reduce the subsidy that car drivers receive to promote equitable transportation funding.

We will convene a roundtable with Indigenous, Federal, Regional, and Municipal governments.

- Determine next steps to bring rail back to Vancouver Island.

We will establish an all-party Parliamentary Committee for sustainable transport funding.

- The Committee will gather expert opinions to create a non-partisan mechanism for funding transport infrastructure and operations, ensuring a comprehensive network for trains, ferries, buses, bikes, trucks, and cars.