

February 19, 2016

Mayor Corrigan and Council
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

SECTION 2
COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE
City Manager
Deputy City Managers
Dir. Planning & Building
Transportation Committee (April 13)

Re: Lower Mainland Tolling & Mobility Pricing

Dear Mayor Corrigan and Council:

Costs related to Metro Vancouver's transportation system, and most recently the George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project, are of growing concern for businesses and residents who rely on an efficient, cost-effective network of roads and bridges to support both work and leisure activities. As the situation stands, tolling will be required to fund the construction of a replacement bridge for the tunnel and will likely also be required for a new Pattullo Bridge.

Since an efficient road network is also vital to our industry, the BC Trucking Association has developed a policy position on funding not just a replacement bridge for the tunnel but for transportation infrastructure needs in the Lower Mainland as well. This policy includes mobility pricing and recognizes that some road users have modal choice and may need incentives to choose options other than single-occupant vehicle travel.

In summary, our position states that the provincial, regional and municipal governments, agencies affecting transportation, stakeholders, and the public need to collectively:

- Develop a regional Transportation Plan (integrated with land-use planning and based on a common set of priorities for current and projected road system and public transit needs), minimum throughput standards for traffic or passenger volumes on high-priority road and transit corridors, and actions to be taken when those standards aren't met.
- Make more productive use of the existing road system.
- Develop an appropriate annual budget for operations and maintenance of the major infrastructure network, based on a public and transparent accounting of regional road user taxes and fees.
- Integrate revenue from these sources to invest in road infrastructure and public transit when there is an appreciable benefit to users and incorporate some form of mobility pricing, to ensure everyone contributes to supporting the transportation system.
- Maintain a convenient, accessible and safe public transit system, delivered and managed in a financially sustainable manner.

Key to this position is a robust and effective mobility pricing strategy. That said, we recognize such a strategy cannot be easily or quickly introduced. As an interim measure, therefore, we

recommend that tolls be implemented on all crossings in the Lower Mainland, recognizing that all of these crossings will, at some point, need to be replaced, upgraded or otherwise improved.

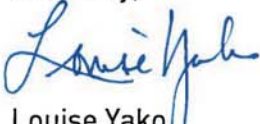
There are three reasons for implementing tolls on all crossings:

- It will cause all drivers to use the most direct route to their destination because the incentive to avoid tolls will be eliminated. The Pattullo Bridge has clearly borne the brunt of toll avoidance by drivers choosing not to cross the Port Mann or Golden Ears Bridges. In the future, without a change in policy, the only non-tolled structure crossing the south arm of the Fraser River will be the Alex Fraser Bridge, which will become the bridge of choice for toll avoiders.
- It is an interim measure that would begin to acclimatize Lower Mainland road users to the concept of directly paying for access to the road system and encouraging those with options to use alternate modes of travel.
- It eliminates the perception that those living and working south and east of the Fraser River are being unfairly called on to pay a higher share for new infrastructure than other road users located elsewhere in the Lower Mainland.

BCTA recognizes that this is a complex issue and that careful consideration of implementation details is required to ensure an effective tolling system and, eventually, a mobility pricing system. We believe, however, that the public will understand, appreciate, and accept both the concept and the timing for introducing a policy such as the one we have proposed.

I would be pleased to discuss our policy and how we might begin to address our transportation and infrastructure funding needs with you or appropriate municipal staff. You can reach me at 604-888-5319.

Sincerely,



Louise Yako
President & CEO