

A pathway to prosperity:

Rapid transit to the North Shore will bring significant economic benefits to the region, province, and nation



The North Shore is a highly desirable place to live, work and play. It is an important economic driver in British Columbia with its tourism destinations, nationally significant port and ship building facilities, university, and arts and film industries.

But as anyone who lives on or has visited the North Shore knows, increased roadway congestion and unpredictable travel times are affecting the health and wellbeing of our people, our environment, and our economy..

That's why members of North Shore Connects and the Economic Partnership North Shore have come together to study and advocate for a significant rapid transit investment that would better connect the North Shore to the existing Metro Vancouver rapid transit network.

What is the Burrard Inlet Rapid Transit Benefits Assessment?

We engaged WSP, a leading engineering consulting firm, to help us assess the benefits of a rapid transit investment for North Shore communities, the Metro Vancouver region, and the provincial and national economies.

Two potential alignments were analysed. Both alignments travel from Park Royal, across the North Shore and the Second Narrows, with one alignment terminating in Downtown Vancouver, and the other alignment terminating at Metrotown.

The benefits of rapid transit to the North Shore

The assessment shows there would be significant local, regional, provincial and national benefits from connecting the North Shore to the rest of the region through rapid transit. Benefits include strong ridership, improved access to jobs, and less regional congestion. A rapid transit connection to the North Shore would provide reliable transportation connections, benefitting not only communities and businesses within Metro Vancouver, but also those along the Sea-to-Sky corridor, and Sunshine Coast.

 <p>Connecting First Nations communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only rapid transit investment in the province that would connect four First Nations reserves • Supports reconciliation by connecting community members with their ancestral lands • Provides opportunity for improved housing diversity on First Nations reserves 	<p>4 First Nations reserves directly served</p>
 <p>Reliable travel times for transit users, drivers and goods movers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides improved travel times on weekdays and weekends, benefitting both commuters and those travelling for recreational and tourist activities • Improves travel times for those who need to use a vehicle, including improved reliability for goods movement 	<p>\$500 million in annual travel time savings</p> <p><i>Monetized and quantified values here, and throughout the benefits assessment, were analyzed for the year 2050 based on regional land use, transportation, and population forecasts. Comparisons were made against a "Business as Usual" case.</i></p>
 <p>Benefits to local, regional, provincial and national economies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases access to more jobs on the North Shore, including at nationally significant port facilities and for supporting trade and logistics industries • Provides a fast and reliable transport option for North Shore residents to commute to workplaces across the region 	<p>For every \$1 billion spent, we will receive:</p> <p>\$4.2 billion in GDP</p> <p>\$7.6 billion in economic output</p>
 <p>Improving equity and access to more affordable housing and jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves regional access to jobs and housing through an affordable, fast, and reliable transportation option • Increases potential for affordable housing supply through transit-oriented housing along the rapid transit route 	<p>+175,000 jobs for North Shore residents within a 60 minute ride</p> <p>Up to 2,500 more affordable housing units</p>
 <p>Sustainable and safe transportation options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages fewer trips by car, reducing congestion-related greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) • Increases safety and avoids costs related to collisions • Supports more active transportation (walking, cycling, rolling) to and from transit stations • Increases options for youth, seniors and individuals with accessibility needs 	<p>111,000 daily transit trips over Burrard Inlet, close to half of which are new trips, meaning fewer cars on the road</p> <p>\$90 million in avoided collision costs</p>

An assumption of SkyTrain technology was applied for modelling purposes in order to fully understand and not limit ridership potential for the purposes of this preliminary study. This does not indicate anticipated technology, which could end up being SkyTrain, BRT, LRT or a combination thereof. Alignment and technology decisions will be made as part of future planning work and alternatives analysis. *To read the full WSP report, please visit northshoreconnects.ca.*

What's next?

This benefits assessment is an initial step towards making rapid transit across Burrard Inlet a reality. We will continue to work closely with TransLink, the Province of BC, and the Government of Canada to advance Burrard Inlet Rapid Transit as a key regional transit priority.

Next steps will include engineering and planning work, undertaking Indigenous, stakeholder and public engagement, and securing government funding. It will also be important to consider the costs of this investment and the trade-offs that are not accounted for within this benefits assessment. Once Burrard Inlet Rapid Transit is confirmed as part of the regional investment plan, we will work closely with our stakeholders and the public to determine the most appropriate alignment and travel technology to realize these promising transportation benefits for the region, province and nation.

About North Shore Connects

North Shore Connects will make it easier for people who live, work and play on the North Shore to get around. We are working together to reduce congestion, strengthen regional connections and support livable communities.

North Shore Connects is a partnership of the District of West Vancouver, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and səliilílw̓ətaʔ (Tseilil-Waututh Nation), who are working collectively on improving transportation on, to and from the North Shore.

Our goal is to improve mobility, connect communities, and help everyone spend more time living and less time commuting.

We're building on work undertaken by the Integrated North Shore Transportation Planning Project (INSTPP) from 2018-2020.



For more information or to sign up for updates

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