

MEDIA RELEASE

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Website: bctransit.com/central-fraser-valley

Groundbreaking ceremony celebrates transit improvements for the Central Fraser Valley

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY – Construction will soon be underway for the new Central Fraser Valley Transit Maintenance and Operations Facility in Abbotsford. When complete, the site will include parking for 92 buses with the ability to expand to 150 in the future. The site will also include seven vehicle maintenance bays, administrative building and onsite bus wash and fueling facilities. A Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station is incorporated into the design, which will enable the Central Fraser Valley to integrate CNG buses into their fleet. CNG buses are quieter and cleaner burning than diesel buses and create additional operational cost savings.

Member of Parliament for Mission–Matsqui–Fraser Canyon, Jati Sidhu, MLA for Maple Ridge–Mission Bob D’Eith, City of Abbotsford Mayor Henry Braun, District of Mission Mayor Pam Alexis and members of BC Transit’s senior leadership team gathered this afternoon for the ceremonial groundbreaking on the site of the new transit and operations facility to be built at 3032 Gladys Avenue in Abbotsford.

In 2013, the City of Abbotsford and the District of Mission approved a Transit Future Plan that identified the need for a new transit facility to meet the growing population and to support the increasing popularity of public transit in the area. The existing facility, located at 1225 Riverside Road in Abbotsford, can no longer support service expansion and investment in alternative technologies.

This \$28.6 million project was first announced in 2016 as part of the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF), from which approximately 83 per cent of construction costs are being provided by the federal government and the Province of B.C. The remaining construction costs will be jointly covered by the City of Abbotsford and the District of Mission. Land and other costs not eligible for PTIF funding will be shared by the Province of B.C., the City of Abbotsford and the District of Mission.

Tender packages have been released for site preparation, foundation, site services and CNG equipment, with more to follow in the coming months. The project is scheduled for completion in spring of 2020.

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Quotes:**Jati Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Mission–Matsqui–Fraser Canyon, on behalf of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities**

“I am very pleased that work will soon begin on this important transit improvement project. Public transit infrastructure is vital to building strong sustainable communities where all residents have access to essential services and opportunities. This new facility will ensure the Central Fraser Valley can continue to provide excellent public transportation services in step with growing ridership.”

Maple Ridge-Mission MLA Bob D’Eith on behalf of Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

“This new transit facility will help meet the needs of people in the Central Fraser Valley, which has seen steady growth in ridership over the past few years. The need for a larger facility to accommodate increasing demand for transit is a great problem to have, and now the community will benefit from improved services for years to come.”

Mayor Henry Braun, City of Abbotsford

“The City of Abbotsford greatly appreciates the investment from the Province of B.C. into building capacity for our local transit network. As the hub of the Fraser Valley we will continue to work on building out transit options that also promote walking and biking to our residents”.

Mayor Pam Alexis, District of Mission

“I thank the Province and the federal government for this investment and our partners south of the Fraser for working together to make this new facility a reality. We are looking forward to taking advantage of the new capacity to expand transit when this facility comes on line so that we can meet the needs of citizens in Mission as our community grows.”

BC Transit’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Erinn Pinkerton

“I commend both the City of Abbotsford and the District of Mission for embracing an ongoing commitment to sustainable transportation in their communities and for recognizing the value of transit for their residents,” said BC Transit’s President and CEO, Erinn Pinkerton. “I thank our government partners for their continued cooperation and support in getting this significant project off the ground.”