



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Public Works and Transportation Committee      **Date:** June 6, 2017  
**From:** Victor Wei, P. Eng.  
 Director, Transportation      **File:** 01-0154-06-01/2017-  
 Vol 01  
**Re:** **Establishment of Mobility Pricing Independent Commission**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Establishment of Mobility Pricing Independent Commission" dated June 6, 2017, from the Director, Transportation, to provide recommendations to TransLink and the Mayors' Council on a coordinated approach for regional road usage charging in Metro Vancouver, be received for information.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.  
 Director, Transportation  
 (604-276-4131)

Att. 1

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

In November 2016, the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and the TransLink Board of Directors jointly established a Joint Steering Committee (the Committee) to oversee preparatory work to establish a Mobility Pricing Independent Commission (the Commission). Following the formal launch of the Commission announced on June 6, 2017 (Attachment 1), this report provides an overview of the Commission's mandate, authority and membership as jointly established by the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board of Directors.

### Analysis

#### Mobility Pricing

As outlined in the 10-Year Vision and the Regional Transportation Strategy, TransLink has committed to developing a mobility pricing strategy for Metro Vancouver as an efficient, fair and sustainable method of helping to pay for the regional transportation system.

As defined by the Committee and endorsed by the Mayors' Council, mobility pricing *“refers to the range of fees and charges for using everyday transportation services. It can include things like road usage charges (tolls, fuel sales tax, or vehicle permit and insurance fees), transit fares, and charges for using shared use services like taxis, bike sharing, car sharing or ride hailing.”*

The three key regional objectives of mobility pricing are to:

- Manage Congestion: for example, by giving drivers off-peak discounts to relieve choke points at busy times of the day;
- Maximize Fairness: remedy the current uncoordinated approach to tolling some but not all crossings in the region; and
- Support Investment: establish a more sustainable funding source to replace fuel sales tax, which is increasingly unreliable due to the growth of more fuel efficient, hybrid and electric vehicles.

#### Mobility Pricing Independent Commission

The mandate of the Commission is to:

- recommend a coordinated approach for regional road usage charging, and
- assess the implications of the recommended approach with respect to consistency, compatibility and coordination with other mobility pricing mechanisms in the region including transit fares and charges for shared mobility services (e.g., car-sharing, bike-sharing).

The analysis will include whether or not only new projects are tolled, if the cost of infrastructure projects should be spread across the region and if new infrastructure should be differentiated from old infrastructure.

The Commission's work is anticipated to include engagement with a variety of stakeholders, regulators and levels of government as well as citizens and businesses. A website has been established, [www.mobilitypricing.ca](http://www.mobilitypricing.ca), that will provide information on the Commission and how the public can become involved. The Commission will begin its work in June 2017 and is expected to submit its findings and recommendations in Spring 2018. TransLink and the Mayors' Council will consider the recommendations when deciding how to move forward with any changes to the way transportation is priced in the region.

The Commission will comprise about 12 members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair, who were selected to be "*eminent and unaffiliated local citizens and community leaders and represent the socioeconomic, demographic, and geographic diversity of Metro Vancouver.*" The selected Chair and Vice-Chair were announced at the launch:

- Chair: Allan P. Seckel, who is the Chief Executive Officer of Doctors of BC and prior was a Deputy Minister and Head of the BC Public Service for the Province of BC; and
- Vice-Chair: Joy MacPhail, who is an owner and former Chair of OUTtv and served as an MLA for 14 years.

The remaining Commission members will be announced shortly and come from varied backgrounds (e.g., business, education, social service, labour, industry) and geographic regions of Metro Vancouver.

TransLink and the Mayors' Council will coordinate and collaborate with the provincial Ministry Responsible for TransLink throughout the process to ensure that the provincial government is kept apprised of the work. During the past provincial election, the B.C. Green party platform included support for mobility pricing and an alteration in bridge tolling. The NDP's position on mobility pricing is not clear and while the party has expressed support for the Mayors' Council 10-Year Plan, they have also said they would eliminate bridge tolls in their first budget.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The launch of the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission is a key step for the Mayors' Council and TransLink to advance the study of mobility pricing as a strategy to help achieve the goals of the 10-Year Plan. The recommendations of the Commission will help provide municipal, regional and provincial decision-makers with a potential long-term funding strategy that is tailored to Metro Vancouver and reflects the views of residents, stakeholders and businesses.



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JC:jc



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Att. 1: Media Release announcing Mobility Pricing Independent Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 6, 2017

## **Metro Vancouver Mayors, TransLink Launch Mobility Pricing Independent Commission**

**Independent Commission will provide made-in-Metro-Vancouver recommendations to reduce congestion and improve fairness in how we pay for transportation.**

VANCOUVER, BC – TransLink's Board of Directors and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation today officially launched the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission and announced its Chair and Vice-Chair who will lead its work to examine how pricing could potentially solve key transportation challenges in the Metro Vancouver region. Today's launch was set in motion in November, 2016 with the approval of the Phase One Plan of the 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation.

With the Metro Vancouver economy booming, leading Canada's economic growth, one million more people will move here over the next 30 years. On some key commuter routes, today it is taking drivers an additional 10 to 15 minutes longer to get to work than it did 10 years ago. Without changes to our transportation approach, congestion, travel times, and environmental impacts will continue to worsen.

The 10-Year Vision committed the region to exploring mobility pricing in order to reduce congestion, promote fairness and support transportation investment. Mobility pricing would build on and support other elements of the 10-Year Vision, including new investments in transit and transportation infrastructure throughout the region.

The Chair and Vice-Chair were selected last month to lead the Independent Commission:

- **Chair: Allan P. Seckel.** Mr. Seckel is the Chief Executive Officer for Doctors of B.C.; before that he was a Deputy Minister and Head of the BC Public Service for the Province of B.C.
- **Vice-Chair: Joy MacPhail.** Ms. McPhail is an owner and former Chair of OUTtv. She served as a member of the B.C. Legislative Assembly for 14 years, holding a number of cabinet portfolios and leading the opposition for four years.

Commission members will be announced shortly once notifications are complete. They come from across the region, with backgrounds in business, education, social service, labour and industry.





The Independent Commission will evaluate mobility pricing options based on the following objectives:

- **Reduce traffic congestion** on roads and bridges across the region, so people and goods can keep moving and businesses can thrive and be competitive.
- **Promote fairness** to address concerns around our long-standing approach to tolling some bridges but not others.
- **Support transportation investment** to improve the current transportation system in Metro Vancouver for all users.

Different approaches to pricing have been successfully applied in a number of jurisdictions around the world, such as Stockholm, Singapore and Oregon. The Independent Commission will examine a variety of models — from minor tweaks of the existing system to a broad reimagining. The Commission is invited to rethink all approaches and explore new ways of doing things that are fair and make the transportation system work better everyone.

A small expert staff team, supported by technical consultants, will support the research, analysis and public engagement. This team will be led by internationally-recognized mobility pricing expert, Daniel Firth, who has been appointed Executive Director.

The Commission will deliver recommendations to the TransLink Board and the Mayors' Council by Spring 2018.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to take part in the Independent Commission's work at public meetings in communities across Metro Vancouver and online at [www.mobilitypricing.ca](http://www.mobilitypricing.ca).