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Ministry of Transportation

REGIONS GAIN STRONGER VOICE IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

RICHMOND – Eight regional transportation advisory committees have been formed throughout British Columbia to give communities a stronger voice in local transportation planning and advise the provincial government on regional transportation needs, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

“As we expand transportation infrastructure throughout the province, we want to make sure communities and regions have a strong voice in identifying local transportation needs,” said Campbell. “These advisory committees will provide that input as we plan future transportation priorities. They will also help identify how new regional transportation authorities can potentially be structured, in furtherance of our New Era commitment.”

Each committee has about 10 members representing regional districts, business, the transportation industry and other sectors. The members were appointed through a nomination and application process.

“British Columbia needs an effective transportation system to ensure economic growth in all regions of the province,” said Transportation Minister Judith Reid. “These committees will participate in the ministry’s annual planning and feed into the provincial strategic transportation plan.”

The eight committees represent all areas outside the Lower Mainland. TransLink, a regional transportation authority, provides transportation planning in the Lower Mainland. The committees are geographically based on regional district boundaries, except in the Bulkley Nechako, which has been divided into the North Coast and Cariboo regional transportation advisory committees. The other committees are Northeast, Thompson-Okanagan, Kootenay, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and South Coast-Mountain.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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Media Jeff Knight
contact: Communications
 250 356-7707