## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order - 5:48 PM

## 2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əÿəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selíl̈witulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>əλ̈əm (Kwikwetlem) and qicə̈ÿ (Katzie) Nations. Unceded means that these territories have never been handed over, sold, or given up by these nations, and we are currently situated on occupied territories.

## 3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

## 3.1 Council Composition Student Union Representatives

## **Faculty of Applied Sciences**

Faculty of Applied Science (FAS)	INACTIVE
Computing Science Student Society	Micah Baker
Engineering Science Student Society	Adam Ma
Mechatronics System Engineering Student Society	Aiden Maymandy
Software Systems Student Society	Fabian Siswanto
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society	Sebastian Olano

#### **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	
Cognitive Science Student Association	Bhuban Karim
Criminology Student Association (Vice-Chair)	Henry Do
Economics Student Society	Hamza Issa
English Student Union	Fatima Tu Zahara
French Student Union	
Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies	Jasleen Dhami
Gerontology Student Union	
Global Asia Studies Student Union	Vacant
History Student Union	Vacant
Humanities Student Union	Vacant
Indigenous Studies Student Union	Evan Accettola
International Studies Student Association (ISSA)	Hyago Santana Moreira
Labour Studies Student Union	Mamduh Almughrabi
Latin American Studies Student Union	INACTIVE
Linguistics Student Union	Vacant
Philosophy Student Union	Ashley Flett
Political Science Student Union	Malk Hayder Ouj
Psychology Student Union	Andrea (Ely) Diaz Pena
Public Policy Student Union	INACTIVE
Sociology and Anthropology Student Union (SASU)	Vacant
World Languages and Literature Student Union	Richa Kalpesh Daiya

## simon fraser student society

**Beedie School of Business** 

Business Administration Student Society	. Meha Sidhu
Faculty of Communications, Arts and Technology	
Faculty of Communications, Arts and Technology (FCAT)	
Communications Student Union (CMNSU)	
Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union	. Caleb Wu
Semester in Dialogue Student Union	. INACTIVE
Faculty of Education	
Education Student Association (ESA)	. Shivali Sisodraker
Faculty of Environment	
Environmental Science Student Union (ESSU)	. Grayson Barke
Archeology Student Society (ASS)	. Mina Parry
Geography Student Union	Jeffery Collinson
Resource & Environmental Management	Ethan Fukuhara
Faculty of Health Sciences	
Health Science Undergraduate Student Union (HSUSU)	. Shoron Alam
Faculty of Science	
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)	
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS)	. Aarthi Srinivasan
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS) Biology Student Union (BSU)	. Aarthi Srinivasan . Nicolas Bonilla
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS) Biology Student Union (BSU) Biomedical Physiology Kinesiology Student Union	. Aarthi Srinivasan . Nicolas Bonilla . Maryam Niaz
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS) Biology Student Union (BSU) Biomedical Physiology Kinesiology Student Union Chemistry Student Society	. Aarthi Srinivasan . Nicolas Bonilla . Maryam Niaz . Landy Liu
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Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS) Biology Student Union (BSU) Biomedical Physiology Kinesiology Student Union Chemistry Student Society. Data Science Student Society Earth Science Student Union Mathematics Student Union Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Student Union Operations Research Student Union	Aarthi Srinivasan Nicolas Bonilla Maryam Niaz Landy Liu Pranay Ratan Eden Lien Ananga Bajgai Ariana Shamsuddin Vacant
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Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS) Biology Student Union (BSU) Biomedical Physiology Kinesiology Student Union Chemistry Student Society. Data Science Student Society Earth Science Student Union Mathematics Student Union Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Student Union Operations Research Student Union	Aarthi Srinivasan Nicolas Bonilla Maryam Niaz Landy Liu Pranay Ratan Eden Lien Ananga Bajgai Ariana Shamsuddin Vacant Vacant

## School for the Contemporary Arts

Art, Performance, and Cinema Studies Student Union	. Vacant
Dance Student Union	. Vacant
Film Student Union	. Vacant
Fine and Performing Arts Student Union	. INACTIVE
Music Student Union	. Vacant
Theatre Student Union	. Vacant
Visual Arts Student Union	. Vacant

## **Constituency Group Representatives**

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First Nations, Métis & Inuit Student Association	Chris Sanderson
International Student Advocates	INACTIVE
Out on Campus Collective (OOC)	INACTIVE
Student Athletic Advisory Committee	INACTIVE
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)	Emmanuel Anthony-Onuigbo
Women Centre Collective	Gurnoor Nijjar

## **Affiliated Student Groups**

Embark Sustainability	Anne Tran
Residence Hall's Association (RHA)	
Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG)	
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	
Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU)	

## SFSS Executive Committee

President (Chair)	Emmanuel Adegboyega
VP Equity and Sustainability	Chloe Arneson
VP Events and Student Affairs	Chitransh Motwani
VP External and Community Affairs	Joel Gilani
VP Finance and Services	Simar Sahota
VP Internal and Organizational Development	Sam Killawee
VP University and Academic Affairs	Rishu Bagga

## 3.2 Society Staff

Board Organizer	. Vacant
Facilities Manager	. Vacant
Operations Manager	
Policy, Research, Community Affairs Coordinator	5
Administrative Assistant	. Simar Thukral

## 3.3 Regrets

Indigenous Studies Student Union	. Evan Accettola
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society	. Sebastian Olano
Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Student Union	. Ariana Shamsuddin
Labour Studies Student Union	. Mamduh Almughrabi
Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society (BNSS)	. Aarthi Srinivasan
Data Science Student Society	. Pranay Ratan
Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union	. Caleb Wu
Economics Student Society	. Hamza Issa

## 3.4 Guests

MemberLee	e Haber
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## 3.5 Alternates

Data Science Student Society	/ Jasleen Kaur
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## 3.6 Absents

Archeology Student Society (ASS)	Mina Parry
Cognitive Science Student Association	•
Engineering Science Student Society	Adam Ma
International Studies Student Association (ISSA)	
World Languages and Literature Student Union	Richa Kalpesh Daiya

## 4. CONSENT AGENDA

## 4.1 CONSENT AGENDA

simon fraser student society

Be it resolved to adopt the consent agenda by unanimous consent.

## **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 4.1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – Council and Committee Minutes - MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:01

Be it resolved to receive and file the following Council and Committee minutes:

- EXEC 2024-09-13
- AC 2024-06-26
- AC 2024-07-10
- ECA 2024-08-26
- ESC 2024-08-28
- MMPC 2024-09-24

## 4.1.2 RATIFICATION OF REGRETS – MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:02

Be it resolved to receive and ratify regrets from the Indigenous Studies Councillor, Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society, Labour Studies Student Union, Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society, Data Science Student Society, Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union, Economics Student Society, and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Student Union for the October 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

## 4.1.3 RATIFICATION OF RESIGNATION – MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:03

Be it resolved to accept the resignation from the Education Student Association Councillor at the October 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

## 5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:04

## **President / VP Internal and Organizational Development**

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

## **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

- The VP External and Community Affairs moved to amend the agenda to include a new business item titled "External and Community Affairs Election".
- The President moved to strike the in-camera titled as "Post-Kickoff Report".

## 6. PRESENTATION

6.1 Mountain Valley Express SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs

## Hybrid: Online via Zoom and In-person SUB 2420 Council Simon Fraser Student Society Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## PRESENTED BY: Board Members of the MYX "Lee Haber"

- Mountain Valley Express is a non-profit society committed to bringing a world-class regional rail network to the South Coast of British Columbia.
- Canada's railway legacy is fraught with oppression and caused irreparable damage to indigenous communities.
- The Mountain Valley Express Collective Society wishes to respectfully acknowledge the unceded territory of the South Coast.
- They further wish to acknowledge the unfair treatment that the constitution affords to rail and the way it dispossessed many nations' lands, spread disease, and starved indigenous peoples. As a society, they solemnly reflect and strive to better understand the atrocities of Canada's railway legacy.
- In the spirit of reconciliation, they pause to reflect on how MVX Nexus can serve as a platform for reframing rail in a different light as a means for reparative healing that embodies compatible values.
- This reframing can also enable Nations to harness their economic development potential while building an equitable and sustainable future for connecting all South Coast Nations and all people that call the South Coast home.
- The Opportunity:

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A Growing Region

4 M people by 2040

Economic Potential-

First Nations focused on development, 5 M annual visitors on the Sea-to-Sky Corridor, North America's largest ski resort, Future HSR with Cascadia Region

- They plan to Maximize Utility, Maximize Connectivity, Allow Incremental Implementation, Superior to Car Travel, Leverage Development.
- Through this project them aim to keep the costs down, leverage development, cooperate and integrate.
- In terms of the next steps, they are seeking for seed funding, long term funding, and the engagement.
- Though the region and province, they have made significant strides in improving transit in recent decades, one key piece of the transit puzzle is still missing: frequent, regional rail service. Regions of a similar scale and level of ambition are already served with extensive regional rail networks. For example, Brisbane, Australia, a metropolitan area with a population similar to ours has a 689-km long regional network that connects its urban area with regional attractions and neighbouring cities. Without world-class regional rail, their region risks falling behind other global cities as well as failing to meet important environmental and equity goals.
- The arguments for regional rail can be summarized as follows:

• Economic: Regional rail would help reduce road congestion and provide fast and frequent transit between the Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, and Sea-to-Sky regions. It would help over 5 million annual tourists easily access Whistler and Squamish as well as provide access for future high-speed rail to the United States.

• Environmental: Currently, driving is the dominant mode of transportation in the Sea-to-Sky and Fraser Valley regions as well as the periphery of Metro Vancouver. Regional rail would provide a compelling, clean, and efficient transportation option for people who live in

## Hybrid: Online via Zoom and In-person SUB 2420 Council Simon Fraser Student Society Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

these areas. Even with electric vehicles, rail transportation is far more efficient than typical private vehicle travel.

• Social: A world-class regional network will increase the number of job opportunities accessible to all residents. Regional rail corridors could serve many First Nation communities, spurring opportunities for economic development and reconciliation. Furthermore, it would reduce household expenses for those overburdened by the cost of car ownership and increase access for those who cannot afford a vehicle.

• Region Shaping: Regional rail would play a pivotal role in directing development, especially housing investment, around station areas, guiding regional growth and accelerating construction. MVX.VISION MVX Collective Society PO Box 70516 Oak Street Vancouver, BC V6M 0A3

- They recognize that our region has other transit priorities. They are not demanding that regional rail be put to the front of the line. Instead, we are requesting a minimum set of resources and attention be given to regional rail so that key planning issues are resolved years before any shovels are put into the ground. Transportation and land use are inextricably linked.
- While recent land use reforms in the form of up zoning have been made to address the housing crisis, without a matching transportation policy shift, they will risk similarly pressing problems in maintaining economic productivity and quality of life on the South Coast.
- They request that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Rob Fleming and the TransLink Board: 1. Study regional rail and integration with future rail rapid transit on a variety of productive corridors. 2. Establishes a directory of properties that should be preserved/monitored to ensure they are designed to accommodate future regional rail/rapid transit stations and corridors.
- In response to the VP Internal regarding does this rail system replace our current sky train network, the Board Member of the MYX mentioned that it will complement it.
- It is an enhancement and not a replacement.
- In response to the President if approved, will this be funded by provincial government, they said they are open to it and will welcome private or government sectors. They are open to both the models.
- In response to the mathematics councillor regarding the timeline for this vision, the Board member of MYX mentioned that a lot of things are out of their control. But they believe for this to be done within 10 years.
- The VP Equity mentioned that they live in Langley and a project like this would be great to have in terms of accessibility as they currently travel to the Vancouver Campus and it takes a lot of time to get there.
- In response to the environmental impact of this project, the Board Member of MYX mentioned that they did an evaluation if their project requires environmental evaluation. But, their project does not. They expect a minimal effect on environment as at least 100 trips by car will be reduced. Car crashes will lower and other factors associated with people driving a lot.
- This will be 100% electrified. Using renewable and sustainable power.

## 6.2 Post-Kickoff Report

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student society

## SUBMITTED BY: President POSTPONED

- The VP Events mentioned that they would like to postpone this to the next council meeting. They are back from their leave of absence yesterday.
- They also would like to wait to hear back from the other members involved in the event to ensure a comprehensive report is provided to the Council.

## 7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

## 7.1 VP Equity –

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student society

They mentioned that it has been a difficult month for them getting all the committee together. For BIPOC they started review of SFU Equity compass. They worked on the annual report. They shared a few successes – putting scholarship for SFU Black Students.

For the Accessibility Committee, they met with Steps Forward and spoke about merit-based scholarship and how bursaries will work with the students. They had a meeting with them today but they were not well to meet with our VP Equity today.

They urged Councillors to join the BIPOC committee as there are a few spots available. The executives have been working on motions passed two years ago

VP University and Academic Affairs – The Diwali Event is out.

The survey that they worked on should be out next Monday. They are working on My SSP Campaign training.

They are also working with the EDI on SFU Equity Survey.

**VP Events and Student Affairs** – They just returned from their Leave of Absence. They put on numbers of events from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>.

They tried to promote the society as much as possible and promote cultural festivals.

**VP External and Community Affairs** – They have been working with a lot of student groups for get out to vote efforts.

They worked on having links and materials regarding election and vote now campaign.

Spoke with different provincial parties.

Within the committee passed honorarium where students are taught how to vote. They are working to represent SFSS at the Beedie Search Committee.

**VP Finance and Services** – Going over the budget reports with the auditor. Planning strategic goals on how the committee will be taking care of the budget proposed for next year.

Discussing referendum for student health care. Worked with the VP Internal for this. Finished the Finance Report for last fiscal years statement to be presented during the AGM. Working with Van City to ensure they align with the investment policy and equity goals.



**VP Internal** – The MMPC met week before and they looked at their plans for the AGM, preparing for outreach stuff and prizes to be handed out during the AGM. Have been working on the logistics for the AGM.

**President** – Finalising the management stuff. They are at the end of reviewing the job openings. They have had meetings with SFU and did check-ins. Joined SFU Black Centre design meetings. Attended committee meetings at SFU.

## DISCUSSION ITEM 8.1 Request for the VP Events and Students Affairs Report for Fall Kickoff Event SUBMITTED BY: International Studies Student Association POSTPONED

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

**9.1 Space Oversight Committee Election - MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:05 SUBMITTED BY:** VP Internal and Organizational Development **President / VP Internal and Organizational Development** Whereas, there is a vacant seat on the SPOC Committee;

Whereas there are 1 seat available for members of Council;

Be it resolved to elect "Geography Councillor" to serve on the SPOC Committee for the council term of 2024- 2025;

## CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY

- The VP Internal mentioned that the purpose of the committee is to oversee SFSS space.
- This involves overseeing renovations, maintenance, and small improvement projects, researching future space opportunities, developing space campaigns, Oversee the health and use of the Space Expansion Fund and relevant line items of the Build SFU Fund.
- Three calls for nomination were called by the Chair.
- The Geography Councillor nominated themselves.
- The Embark Councillor requested more time to accept or deny their nomination as they just got into their role and the time of this committee might not suit them. They would require more time to decide on this.
- The VP Internal and Organizational Development emphasized the importance of Councillors to engage and be active within the committee.
- The President reminded the Councillors to sit on atleast one committee.

## **9.2 University and Academic Affairs Committee Elections - MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:06**

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP University and Academic Affairs

**President / VP Internal and Organizational Development** 

Whereas, there is a vacant seat on the UAA Committee;



Whereas there are 1 seat available for members of Council;

Be it resolved to elect "French Councillor" to serve on the UAA Committee for the council term of 2024-2025.

## **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**French (20):** Engineering, Software Systems, Cognitive Science, English Student Union, French Student Union, Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies Student Union, Political Science, Geography Councillor, Health Science Councillor, Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Student Association, Chemistry Councillor, Resource and Environmental Management, Mathematics Councillor, Women's Centre Collective, Embark Sustainability, VP Equity and Sustainability, VP Events and Student Affairs, VP Finance and Services, VP Internal and Organizational Development, and President.

**DNA (12):** Computer Science Councillor, Mechatronics System Engineering Councillor, Philosophy Councillor, Environmental Science Student Union, Biology Student Union, Chemistry Student Society, Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance, Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry, First Nations, Métis & Inuit Student Association, SFPIRG, Residence Hall's Association, and Teach Support Staff Union.

**VP Events and Student Affairs (4):** Business Administration, Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association, VP External and Community Affairs, and VP University and Academic Affairs.

- Three calls for nomination were called by the Chair.
- The French Councillor nominated themselves.
- The DNA Councillor nominated themselves.
- The VP University and Academic Affairs nominated the VP Events and Student Affairs and they denied their nomination.
- The DNA Councillor mentioned that they would like to sit on this committee as a voting member.
- The VP Events and Student Affairs changed their mind and would like to accept their nomination.

## 9.3 OOC Councillor Resignation -MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:07 President / VP Finance and Services

Be it resolved to accept the resignation of the OOC Councillor.

## CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

## 10.1 SFSS Council Endorsement of the MVX Open Letter - MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:08

**SUBMITTED BY:** VP External and Community Affairs

ATTACHMENTS: MVX-Open-Letter.pdf and MVX.overview.pdf

## President / Society of Arts and Social Sciences

Whereas, the SFSS is committed to supporting sustainable transportation initiatives that benefit students and the broader community;



Whereas, the MVX Open Letter advocates for regional rail service, addressing economic, environmental, and social issues that align with SFSS goals of accessibility, sustainability, and regional development;

Be it resolved, The SFSS Council officially endorses the MVX Open Letter. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

10.2 External and Community Affairs Election - MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:09
SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs
President / VP Internal and Organizational Development
Whereas, there are 2 vacant seats on the ECA Committee;

Whereas there are 2 seats available for members of Council;

Be it resolved to elect GSWS Councillor and the Resource and Environmental Management Councillor to serve on the ECA Committee for the council term of 2024- 2025.

## CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOULSY

- Three calls for nomination were called by the Chair.
- The GSWS Councillor nominated themselves.
- The Resource and Environmental Management Councillor nominated themselves.

## 11. 30 MINUTES Q&A

#### **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

15.1 VP University and Academic Affairs- Leave of Absence from October 23 to October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**15.2** Townhall next week.

**15.3** Diwali tickets are out.

15.3 SUS Gala this coming Sunday.

#### **13. ATTACHMENTS**

- 13.1 MVX-Open-Letter.pdf
- **13.2** MVX.overview.pdf

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**14.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2024-10-16:10 President / Criminology Student Association** Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

# Visit our Fundraiser

Click this slide



# **MVX Nexus**

Connecting the South Coast



# This was no moment of triumph.

Canada's railway legacy is fraught with oppression and caused irreparable damage to indigenous communities.

The Mountain Valley Express Collective Society wishes to respectfully acknowledge the unceded territory of the South Coast.

We further wish to acknowledge the unfair treatment that the constitution affords to rail and the way it dispossessed many nations' lands, spread disease, and starved indigenous peoples. As a society, we solemnly reflect and strive to better understand the atrocities of Canada's railway legacy.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we pause to reflect on how MVX Nexus can serve as a platform for reframing rail in a different light as a means for reparative healing that embodies compatible values. This reframing can also enable Nations to harness their economic development potential while building an equitable and sustainable future for connecting all South Coast Nations and all people that call the South Coast home.

FOR A GREATER REGION



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## Who we are

## Political Advisory



## Nathan Pachal

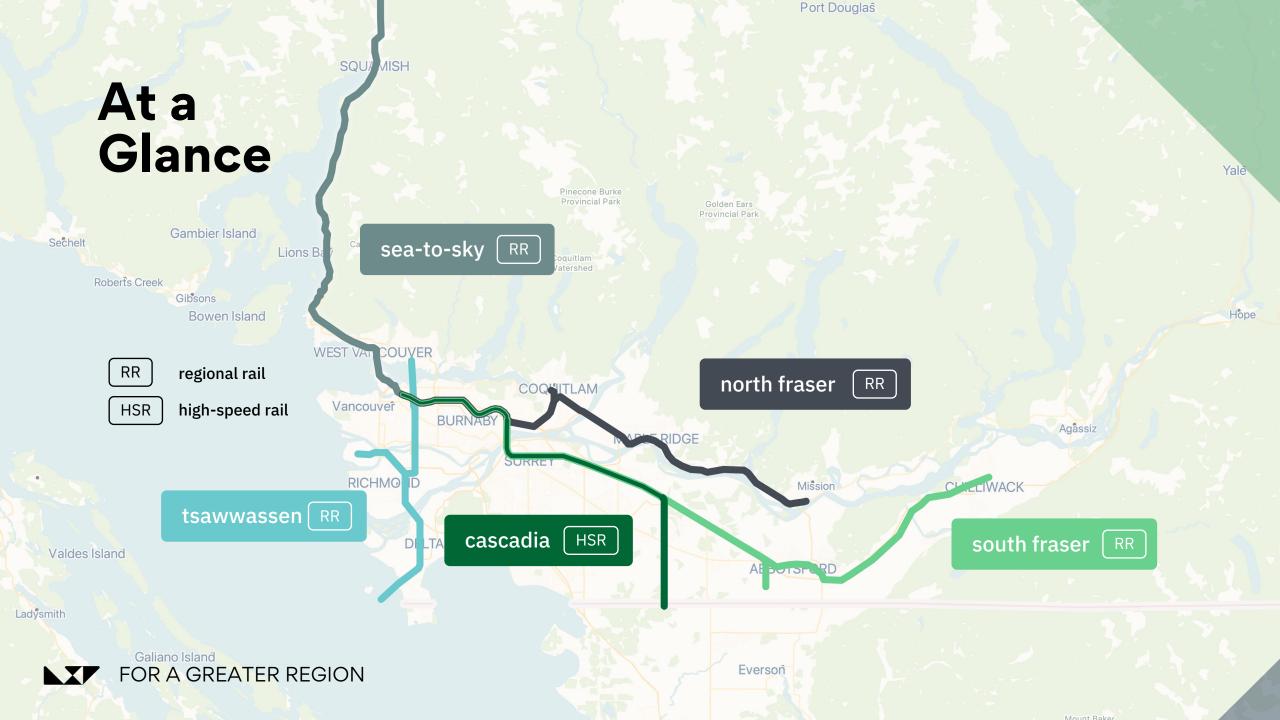
MAYOR CITY OF LANGLEY



## **Michael Pratt**

COUNCILLOR TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY

FOR A GREATER REGION



# The Opportunity

## A Growing Region

• 4 M people by 2040

## **Economic Potential**

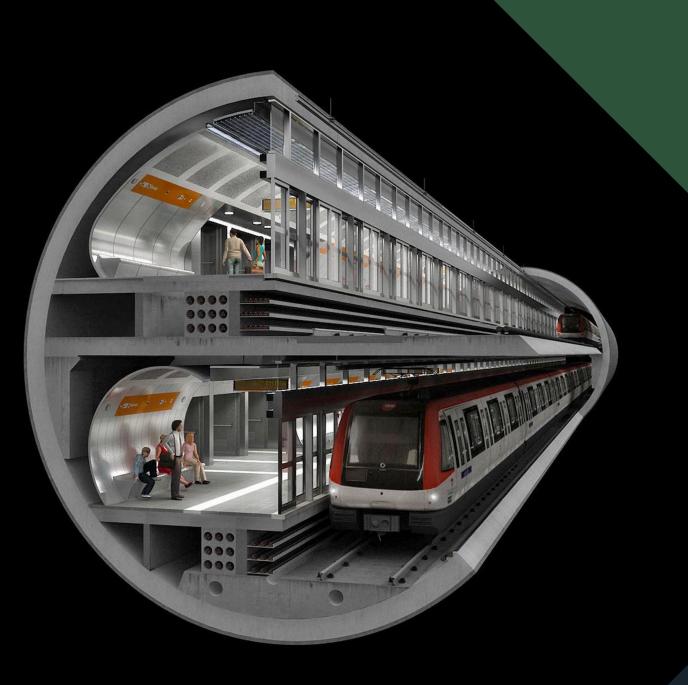
- First Nations focused on development
- 5 M annual visitors on the Sea-to-Sky Corridor
- North America's largest ski resort
- Future HSR with Cascadia Region





## **Planning Principles**

- ✓ Maximize Utility
- ✓ Maximize Connectivity
- ✓ Allow Incremental Implementation
- ✓ Superior to Car Travel
- ✓ Leverage Development

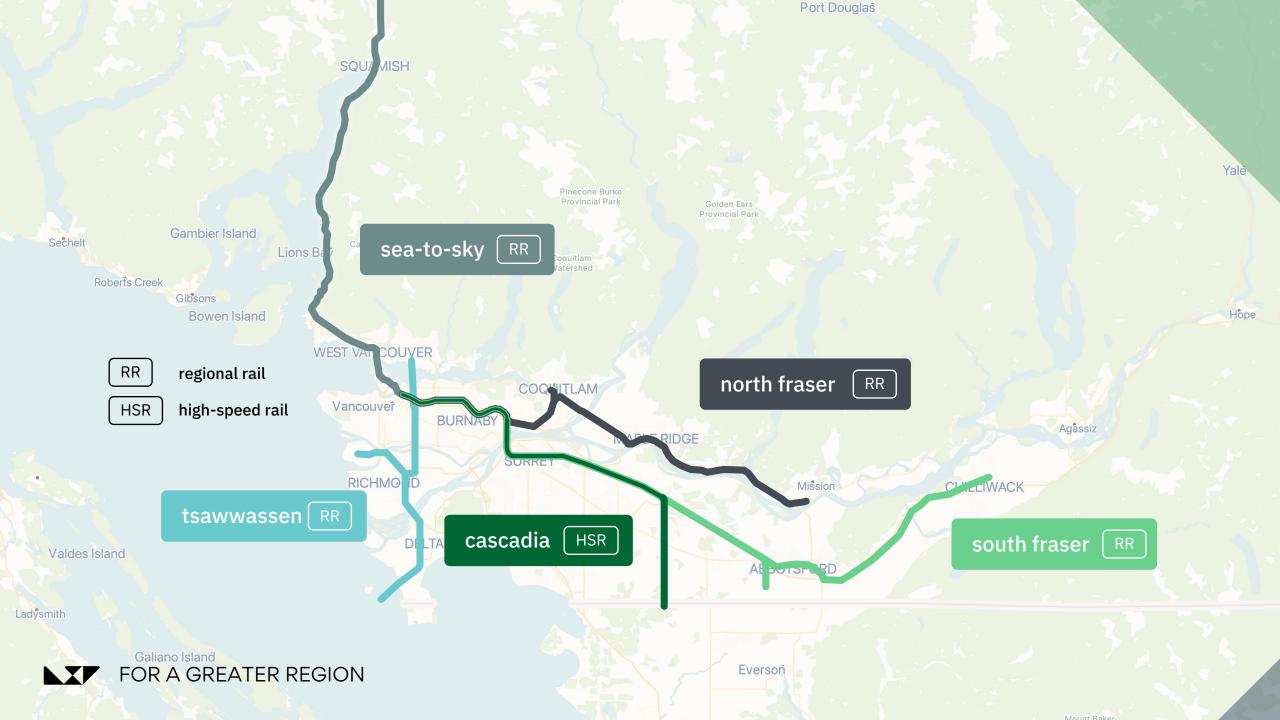


# Making it Real

- Keeping costs down
- Leverage development
- Cooperate and integrate







# **Travel Times**

From-To	Transit	Car	Regional Rail
Downtown Vancouver - Surrey Central	39m	35m-1h05m	17m
Downtown Vancouver - Abbotsford Central	1h35m	1h00m-2h00m	41m
Downtown Vancouver- Chilliwack	2h20m	1h10m-1h40m	56m
Downtown Vancouver - Park Royal	39m	35m-1h05m	17m
Downtown Vancouver - Squamish	1h26m-2h00m	1h00m-2h00m	41m
Downtown Vancouver- Whistler	2h00m-2h45m	1h30m-2h20m	1h29m



## **Potential Builders**









## **Next Steps**

## Seed Funding

• Fundraising Campaign

## Long-term funding

- Grants
- Memberships

## Engagement

- Municipalities
- First Nations
- Stakeholders



# Thank you

mvx.vision





25 November 2023

To: The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Translink.

We are Mountain Valley Express, a non-profit society committed to bringing a world-class regional rail network to the South Coast of British Columbia. Though our region and province have made significant strides in improving transit in recent decades, one key piece of the transit puzzle is still missing: **frequent**, **regional rail service**.

Regions of a similar scale and level of ambition are already served with extensive regional rail networks. For example, Brisbane, Australia, a metropolitan area with a population similar to ours has a 689-km long regional network that connects its urban area with regional attractions and neighbouring cities. Without world-class regional rail, our region risks falling behind other global cities as well as failing to meet important environmental and equity goals.

The arguments for regional rail can be summarized as follows:

- **Economic:** Regional rail would help reduce road congestion and provide fast and frequent transit between the Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, and Sea-to-Sky regions. It would help over 5 million annual tourists easily access Whistler and Squamish as well as provide access for future high-speed rail to the United States.
- Environmental: Currently, driving is the dominant mode of transportation in the Sea-to-Sky and Fraser Valley regions as well as the periphery of Metro Vancouver. Regional rail would provide a compelling, clean, and efficient transportation option for people who live in these areas. Even with electric vehicles, rail transportation is far more efficient than typical private vehicle travel.
- Social: A world-class regional network will increase the number of job opportunities
  accessible to all residents. Regional rail corridors could serve many First Nation
  communities, spurring opportunities for economic development and reconciliation.
  Furthermore, it would reduce household expenses for those overburdened by the cost of
  car ownership and increase access for those who cannot afford a vehicle.
- **Region Shaping:** Regional rail would play a pivotal role in directing development, especially housing investment, around station areas, guiding regional growth and accelerating construction.





## **MVX Collective Society**

PO Box 70516 Oak Street Vancouver, BC V6M 0A3

We recognize that our region has other transit priorities. We are not demanding that regional rail be put to the front of the line. Instead, we are requesting a minimum set of resources and attention be given to regional rail so that key planning issues are resolved years before any shovels are put into the ground.

Transportation and land use are inextricably linked. While recent land use reforms in the form of upzoning have been made to address the housing crisis, without a matching transportation policy shift, we will risk similarly pressing problems in maintaining economic productivity and quality of life on the South Coast.

We request that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Rob Fleming and the TransLink Board:

- 1. Study regional rail and integration with future rail rapid transit on a variety of productive corridors.
- 2. Establishes a directory of properties that should be preserved/monitored to ensure they are designed to accommodate future regional rail/rapid transit stations and corridors.

Sincerely,

Mountain Valley Express Board of Directors

