



Jonathan Wilkinson

FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
NORTH VANCOUVER-CAPILANO

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Congestion and the North Shore's BRT opportunity

The Metrotown-North Shore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is a critical and transformative step for residents of the North Shore to help break free from the chronic congestion that often defines the daily bridge commute and clogs our local streets.

As Member of Parliament for North Vancouver-Capilano, I have heard from countless residents frustrated with the gridlock and yearning for real solutions. The answer is clear: only bold, effective investments in rapid transit can truly unlock our region's potential and improve day-to-day quality of life.

Why BRT is the right move

Traditional transit options, even with recent upgrades, have not been able to draw enough drivers out of their cars, leaving us stuck in a cycle of congestion. While the prospect of SkyTrain extending to the North Shore remains a goal for the future, it's several years away. BRT, however, gives us a near-term, game-changing upgrade: dedicated transit lanes running between Metrotown and Park Royal, bypassing bottlenecks and offering fast, frequent service every five minutes at peak - rain or shine.

This isn't just another bus. International best practice will guide this line's design: larger, comfortable, fully accessible buses every five minutes at peak times, sheltered and secure stations with next-bus digital info, and transit signal priority that lets vehicles glide through intersections. These features put BRT nearly on par with rail for convenience, reliability, and ride experience - raising the bar for what public transit can and should deliver on the North Shore.

Turning ambition into reality

Scheduled for a 2027 launch, the project still faces its most daunting test: funding. With an estimated construction cost of \$400 million, and just a portion of that in place, we can't afford to let this project stall for lack of federal, provincial and municipal support.

All three North Shore MPs are committed to press the federal government to make Metro Vancouver's unique transportation needs a funding priority. This means not only securing investment in Ottawa but also making a compelling case nationally that North Shore congestion isn't just our headache - it's an economic and environmental bottleneck for the entire region.

Political partnership vital

Delivering BRT on time will demand every level of government working together - TransLink, municipal councils, provincial partners, and, yes, Ottawa. For elected representatives, that means not just championing this project behind closed doors, but being out in the community, listening, and communicating the environmental, economic, and quality-of-life benefits that BRT will bring.

Recent public consultations show strong momentum, but North Shore residents must continue to make their voices heard to build a rock-solid mandate for this project.

BRT is not a distant "nice to have" but an urgent necessity - one within our grasp, if we insist that governments work together and get it done. Let's seize this opportunity.

Contact us: **Constituency Office 604-775-6333**

Email: **Jonathan.Wilkinson@parl.gc.ca**

Website: **JonathanWilkinson.libparl.ca**