

Project: Budget 2015

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Federal Budget Commits \$1 Billion per Year to Public Transit

On Tuesday 21 April, the Government of Canada announced through the Federal Budget that it would make an unprecedented commitment to provide ongoing, stable and predictable funding for public transit. Finance Minister, Joe Oliver, re-iterated in the 2015 Federal Budget the government's support by committing to invest an additional \$1 billion per year in major transit infrastructure projects.

Investments will be made through a new [Public Transit Fund](#) and will be on top of current funding programs already included in the New Building Canada Plan (BCP). New investments will start flowing in 2017-2018 at \$250 million to increase to \$500 million in 2018-2019 and \$1B per year ongoing thereafter. The new Public Transit Fund will be administered under PPP Canada Inc. and federal support will be allocated based on merit to projects that will be delivered through alternative financing and funding mechanisms involving the private sector.

The Government will announce further details about program parameters for the Public Transit Fund later this year. CUTA will work with the Office of the Finance Minister and PPP Canada to help define the program parameters and ensure the plan delivers the best value to our members and cities across the country.

More details on the transit fund can be found [here](#).

For more information on the [federal budget details](#), contact Alex Maheu at maheu@cutaactu.ca or (613) 788-7985.

Ontario Budget Further Boosts Transit Funding

Public transit continues to be a cornerstone of Ontario's financial plan with further funding commitments confirmed by the Ontario budget delivered this week by Minister of Finance **Charles Sousa**. The budget increases dedicated funds for transit and critical infrastructure from \$29 billion to \$31.5 billion over ten years and commits full provincial funding to the Hurontario-Main LRT in Mississauga and Brampton, as well as rapid transit in Hamilton. Major funding for GO rail expansion and electrification will ramp up to frequent RER type service, which also lays the foundation for the City of Toronto's Smart Track proposal. Revenue for this funding is derived from previously announced sources as well as the

partial sale of Hydro One. The budget also commits the province to prioritize and evaluate infrastructure needs outside the GTHA based on economic, social and environmental returns and includes a cap-and-trade carbon pricing mechanism, the proceeds from which can be used to invest in public transit.

For more information, please contact [Michael Roschlau](#) at extension 104.

CUTA Supports Positive Outcome in Vancouver Transit Funding Vote

The region of Metro Vancouver is halfway through the ten-week voting period in the plebiscite that will decide whether the Mayors' Transportation and Transit Plan will be funded through a 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax, collected with the provincial sales tax. CUTA this week conducted a series of meetings in Metro Vancouver, led by President & CEO **Michael Roschlau**, including a round table discussion hosted by the Vancouver Board of Trade and British Columbia Chamber of Commerce. CUTA also met with numerous other stakeholders, the Better Transit Coalition as well as with Mayors and senior municipal staff from several Metro Vancouver municipalities. CUTA has been supporting a positive outcome of the plebiscite by providing objective data and benchmarking as well as sharing experience from similar ballot measures conducted throughout the United States. While the referendum is regional in nature, its result is of national significance. The campaign for a negative outcome is led by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation – a national organization – motivated by a belief that municipalities should not be allowed to have tools to generate revenues to fund their priorities. CUTA is acting on behalf of its members and municipalities to support the concept of revenue tools to invest in the future and respond to the local needs.

For more information, please contact [Michael Roschlau](#) at extension 104 or visit the [Mayors' Council web site](#).