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UBC Welcomes Transit Announcement

UBC welcomes the provincial government announcement today of a \$14 billion province-wide transit investment to include \$2.8 billion for the UBC Line in addition to increased bus service.

“Congratulations to the Premier and his colleagues on their leadership to improve transit service and address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” said Prof. Stephen Toope, President of UBC. “With UBC’s Vancouver campus the second largest transit destination in the region, this investment helps us continue our shift from being a car-oriented campus to a transit-centred one. We are also pleased that RapidBus service will be expanded to Kelowna, thus providing sustainable choices for our UBC Okanagan community.”

When the new line arrives at UBC in the proposed date of 2020, it will provide a complete transit hub for UBC’s Vancouver campus, Toope said. The hub will then be composed of the proposed rapid transit line, a bus terminal that will continue to service the very significant bus travel from parts of the region not served by the rapid transit line, and a shuttle bus to address more local transit movements. The below-grade new bus terminal that UBC and TransLink are building is sized to fit with the development of the new rapid transit service.

UBC will work closely with TransLink and others to plan the UBC Line and ensure that a new station integrates with the new University Boulevard neighbourhood that marks the entrance to the Vancouver campus, Toope said.

There are currently 54,000 daily transit trips to and from UBC. This is almost half of all trips to and from UBC, and transit is the single most popular mode of travel to the Vancouver campus. Students have been a driving force in improving transit use through their adoption of the U-Pass in 2003.