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Région du Pacifique et du Yukon  
757 rue Hastings Ouest  
bureau 210A  
Vancouver (C-B) V6C 3M2

Agency File No: 005785

July 31, 2020

**ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Colleague:

**Subject: Designation Request for the Proposed Surrey Langley Skytrain**

On June 29, 2020, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act) to designate the Surrey Langley SkyTrain (the Project), proposed by the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (or TransLink, the proponent). This request was made by a member of the public. The letter requesting designation will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site, publicly available at [canada.ca/iaac](http://canada.ca/iaac).

**The Proposed Project**

The Project would be located in the cities of Surrey and Langley, British Columbia, and would extend the existing Expo Line 16 kilometres along the Fraser Highway using an elevated guideway. The daily ridership is predicted to be approximately 62,000 by 2035, due to increased land use development near the Project. The Project as proposed is not described in the *Physical Activities Regulations* under the Act.

**Designation Request**

Under subsection 9(1) of the Act the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not described in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister can do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions, including funding), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation.

To support the Minister in considering the request, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review:

- information about the Project;
- any concerns expressed by the requester, the public, and Indigenous groups;
- expert advice from federal authorities;
- input from provincial ministries; and
- input from other key stakeholders.

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If designated, the proponent would be required to formally submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency, thereby commencing the planning phase of the Act. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required. Should the Project be designated, the Agency will contact you to discuss further steps under the Act.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests is available on the Agency's website at [www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html).

### **Seeking Federal Authority Advice**

The Agency is requesting that you complete and provide the enclosed form by August 10, 2020. Please provide your submission to the Agency by email using the contact information provided below. All comments received will be posted on the public Registry.

**Important Note:** All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – are considered public and may be released. If you have provided any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency as soon as possible. The Agency does not accept information marked as confidential without prior contact.

If you have any questions regarding the Project and the contents of this letter, please contact me at 604-360-5360 or at [Quincy.Leung@canada.ca](mailto:Quincy.Leung@canada.ca).

In closing, I acknowledge that given the circumstances concerning the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, these may be very challenging times for your organization. We appreciate your consideration of our request at this time, and it is our hope that you, your family, and your colleagues are healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Quincy Leung  
Project Manager, Pacific and Yukon Region

Enclosure: Federal Authority Advice Record

**ENCLOSURES:**

**Federal Authority Advice Record: Designation Request under the *Impact Assessment Act* Response due by August 10, 2020**

Surrey Langley SkyTrain- South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority

Department/Agency	
Lead Contact	
Full Address	
Email	
Telephone	
Alternate Departmental Contact	

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1. Has your department or agency considered whether it has an interest in the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action (including provision of financial assistance) that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

Specify as appropriate.

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2. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

If yes, specify that power, duty or function and its legislative source.

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3. If your department or agency will exercise a power or perform a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project, will it involve public and Indigenous consultation?

Specify as appropriate.

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4. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to any potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction caused by the Project or adverse direct or incidental effects stemming from the Project?

Specify as appropriate.

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5. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other parties in relation to the Project?

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

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6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, does the Project have the potential to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects as described in section 2 of the Impact Assessment Act? Could any of those effects be managed through legislative or regulatory mechanisms administered by your department or agency? If a licence, permit, authorization or approval may be issued, could it include conditions in relation to those effects?

Specify as appropriate.

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7. Does your department or agency have a program or additional authority that may be relevant and could be considered as a potential solution to concerns expressed about the Project? In particular, the following issues have been raised by the requestor:

- Use of Linear Induction Motors requires significantly more electrical energy than its alternatives; and
- Additional greenhouse emissions compared to at-grade transit alternatives.

If yes, please specify the program or authority.

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8. Does your department or agency have information about the interests of Indigenous groups in the vicinity of the Project; the exercise of their rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; and/or any consultation and accommodation undertaken, underway, or anticipated to address adverse impacts to the section 35 rights of the Indigenous groups?

If yes, please specify.

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9. If your department has guidance material that would be helpful to the proponent or the Agency, please include these as attachments or hyperlinks in your response.

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Name of departmental / agency responder

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Title of responder

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Date