



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Pacific and Yukon Region
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Agency File No: 005795

July 31, 2020

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Heidi Gibson
Executive Project Director
British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office
836 Yates Street
Victoria BC V8W 1L8
Heidi.Gibson@gov.bc.ca

Dear Heidi Gibson:

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 and a description of the Project will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site, publicly available at canada.ca/iaac.

The Proposed Project

The Project would be located in 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.

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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 a federal decision), 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;
- views of the requesters, the public, and Indigenous groups;
- expert advice from federal authorities;
- input from provincial ministries coordinated through the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO); and
- input from key stakeholders.

In accordance with subsection 9(4) of the Act, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by September 28, 2020.

If designated, to proceed with the Project, 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.

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.

The purpose of this email is to inform the EAO of the designation request and to seek your input regarding provincial regulatory processes in relation to the Project, and any associated assessment of effects and public and Indigenous consultation.

Seeking Provincial Input

The Agency is requesting that you complete and provide the enclosed form by August 10, 2020. We are interested in understanding the views of the EAO and other key provincial ministries (for example, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, etc.). You are welcome to provide us more than one form to present these views. Please provide your submission(s) 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.

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: Provincial Advice Record

ENCLOSURE:

**Provincial Advice Record: Designation Request under the *Impact Assessment Act*
Response requested by August 10, 2020**

Surrey Langley SkyTrain –South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (or TransLink)

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| Ministry | |
| Lead Contact | |
| Full Address | |
| Email | |
| Telephone | |
| Alternate Ministry Contact | |

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1. In general terms, please confirm and describe your ministry's role (if applicable) in the review of the Project.
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2. Please provide the contact information of the person or persons responsible for managing your ministry's oversight of the Project (if different from lead contact above).
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3. Describe the provincial legislative or regulatory process or approvals administered by your ministry that may assess or manage the potential adverse effects of the Project. For each mechanism or approval, please provide information regarding the following:
 - Name of the process or authorization (e.g. certificate, licence, permit or approval) and the associated legislative framework;
 - Whether (for each) the authorization would set conditions and if yes, what issues would those conditions address;
 - Whether (for each) the authorization would require public and/or Indigenous consultation and if yes, provide information on the approach to be taken; and
 - Whether (for each) your ministry has guidance material that would be helpful to the proponent or the Agency (please provide these as attachments or hyperlinks in your response).
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4. Confirm whether any authorization listed above would contemplate the following matters raised by the requester and if yes, discuss, in general, the benchmarks or standards to which a project of this nature may be held (be specific in relation to each point below that may be applicable to your ministry's mandate):

- Use of Linear Induction Motors requires significantly more electrical energy than its alternatives; and
 - Additional greenhouse emissions compared to at-grade transit alternatives.
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5. Have you received public comments/concerns in relation to the Project? If yes, provide an overview of the key issues and the way in which (in general terms) your ministry intends to address (or would normally manage) these matters.

6. Have you received Indigenous community comments/concerns in relation to the Project? If yes, provide an overview of the key issues and the way in which (in general terms) your ministry intends to address (or would normally manage) these matters.

7. Do you have any other information about the Project in relation to potential adverse effects or impacts to the public, or Indigenous peoples and their rights as protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*?

Name of responder

Title of responder

Date