

## PRESS RELEASE RICHMOND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 16, 2004  
Board of Directors  
Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority

The ribbon cutting for the next rapid transit system in the GVRD is set for November 2009. The RAV Line will carry 100,000 passengers daily through one of the busiest commercial corridors in BC. By 2010 the population in the catchment area served by this corridor will grow by 60,000 and employment will grow by 36,000. Double those figures by 2021. People will be able to travel among the major town centres of Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Coquitlam and Richmond and to YVR without cars. This means that about 30 million people per year on the RAV Line will contribute to cleaner air, less road congestion, fewer accidents, and will have less stress. The operating costs will be paid for by the users of the RAV Line.

Region wide public support for this transit system is 75%. People realize that the RAV Line is part of an overall transportation system of highways, bridges, buses, sea buses, train, and rapid transit. The Richmond Chamber of Commerce has been calling for a Richmond/Vancouver rapid transit system for over 30 years.

We congratulate the determination of Translink, the Cities of Richmond and Vancouver, the YVR Authority, the Provincial and Federal Governments to build this major infrastructure. It is not just their commitment to contribute \$1.2 billion that is to be commended but their commitment to ensure that the project is fully funded. Translink has the ability to attract bids from the three most capable groups in the world to build and operate the system and at the financial risk of the eventual winner. Of significance, experts in transportation finance, design and construction, operations and maintenance, environment and legal have evaluated the bids in a manner that has been approved by BC's most respected auditor, Ted Hughes, QC. Combine these fail safe systems with a skilled labour force and we will have a world class system built on time and on budget. .

The Richmond Chamber wants construction of controlled access turn stiles to ensure that all users pay for the ride. This system requires station attendants who will provide security and safety for the travelling public. The Chamber calls upon the Federal Government to return the \$300 million of federal fuel taxes and GST on fuel collected within the GVRD to support the GVRD transportation system.

A well-conceived and well-run transportation system attracts investment, and skilled employees necessary for a robust economy. Our politicians must act today to build the RAV Line. Future generations are depending upon us.

Sincerely

Gary Cohen  
Chair, Richmond Chamber of Commerce

We have included references to a [RAV Policy Forum](#) to be held on May 6th of this Month, in addition to a [published article](#) on recent events surrounding RAV.