Connecting Now to the Future:

A Vision for Transportation in Canada

Ministerial Statement September 2013

Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments, through the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety, have agreed upon a strategic vision that provides direction on where Canada's transportation systems should be to drive future long-term economic growth and enhance our quality of life.

A connected country with a competitive economy and vibrant communities depends upon efficient and integrated multimodal transportation systems that:

- Stimulate trade by improving the flow of people and goods, thereby making Canada more globally competitive and productive;
- Encourage economic sustainability and private sector investment, including in transportation infrastructure and services, and provide access to a talented workforce;
- Enhance quality of life by supporting modal choice for individuals to access services, employment opportunities and each other; including public and active transportation modes;



- Have less of an impact on the environment, such as by reducing the contribution of the sector to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mitigating related consequences; and,
- Respect jurisdictional responsibilities and priorities, and recognize the need for flexibility in addressing Canada's geographic and economic diversity.

In 2011, the transportation sector in Canada directly accounted for 4.2 per cent (\$53 billion) of Canada's gross domestic product and supported more than 924,000 jobs for Canadians.

To meet the needs of Canada's growing population and economy over the next 20 years will require strengthened transportation systems that continue to link industries to markets and people to services. Considerable progress has been made in recent years, including an unprecedented level of investment in transportation infrastructure.

However, to meet the economic, social and environmental challenges ahead, particularly in a climate of fiscal constraint, effective partnerships between government and with the private sector will be critical in ensuring that policies, regulations, legislative frameworks and future investments are aligned with the evolving needs of transportation system users and providers.

Governments and the private sector play crucial roles in operating, investing in, and ensuring the safety of transportation systems in Canada. Additionally, governments must ensure, within their jurisdictions, clear, enforceable standards and regulations are in place to protect people and the environment. Collaborative and complementary strategic action will be more important than ever in ensuring that Canada can continue to benefit from strong and modern transportation systems.



To protect the safety of Canadians as transportation systems and markets evolve, governments need to continually update their regulatory frameworks and maintain effective oversight of industry compliance.

To this end, federal, provincial and territorial transportation ministers are presenting a shared vision for competitive, effective transportation networks over the next 20 years — a vision that will support economic growth, enable prosperous communities and reduce the environmental impacts of transportation — a vision of a modern, vibrant, sustainable, multimodal, safe, and integrated transportation networks.

A Vision for Canada's Economic Growth and Prosperous Communities:

In 2030, Canada will continue to maintain, promote and enhance safe, competitive, viable and sustainable transportation networks that enhance economic prosperity and quality of life.

Guiding Principles:

The following fundamental principles will guide the identification of collaborative and collective efforts that will be required from all governments and private sector stakeholders to make this transportation vision a reality.

- Action must be based on economic, social, and environmental goals, while respecting jurisdictional authority and that priorities and mandates differ across jurisdictions.
- Collaborative decisions should be fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible and made on the basis of sound analysis and risk assessments.
- Greater cooperation and stronger partnerships among governments, the private sector, and transportation users are key to making progress.



Priority Areas for Collaboration:

To support this Vision, the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety will pursue collaborative action under the following priority areas over the next five years.

- Foster seamless transportation systems that connect people to people, services and jobs, and links goods to markets efficiently, safely, and securely through integrated transportation and land-use planning.
- Working with the private sector, build on the unprecedented level of infrastructure investments in recent years to enable growth, maintain the integrity of the transportation systems, maximize modal integration, promote the use of innovative technologies and practices that improve productivity, increase efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.
- Provide leadership and strengthen effective partnerships among governments and all stakeholders to work towards transportation systems that are responsive and adaptive to the diverse needs of system users and enhance quality of life, today and moving forward to 2030.

Working Together

Canada's transportation networks, are capable of evolving dynamically to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

By working together, we can move from where we are now to where we will need to be in the future.