



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Feb. 9, 2017

Follow-up on Evergreen Line looks at capital project decisions

VICTORIA – The Office of the Auditor General of B.C. has released a follow-up audit on progress made since its 2013 report, Audit of the Evergreen Line Rapid Transit System.

Since 2013, Partnerships BC and the Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Finance have made important progress towards implementing the seven original recommendations. Auditor General Carol Bellringer’s office found that they have fully implemented five of the seven recommendations, which ranged from better documentation of the basis for decisions to greater guidance on performance measurement so everyone will know if projects meet their goals.

The first outstanding recommendation concerns government’s Capital Asset Management Framework, and recommends that the Ministry of Finance implement a plan to improve guidance for future projects. The ministry has made updates to the framework, but the updates related to the recommendation, while in the ministry’s project plan, have not yet been implemented.

The other outstanding recommendation targets the due diligence around developing and reviewing business cases for projects. Partnerships BC and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure have completed their work, and once the Ministry of Finance completes its part by reviewing project planning and approval guidelines, the recommendation will likely be considered fully implemented. Bellringer says her office will continue monitoring the ministry’s progress.

“There should always be complete information about the costs, benefits, and risks to be managed when making decisions about capital projects” said Bellringer. “This is especially true for high-cost, large-scale projects like the Evergreen Line.”

The original 2013 audit looked at the quality of information provided to government decision-makers while planning the Evergreen Line project. The office had expected to find more evidence of government’s due diligence and decision-makers receiving more information given the large scale and \$1.43 billion cost of the Evergreen Line project.

“The efforts made to date and in-progress should contribute to better decision-making on other such large-scale projects,” said Bellringer.

Those audited by the Auditor General’s office must provide detailed action plans to the Legislative Assembly’s Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts identifying the work they undertook to address the recommendations. The Auditor General’s office completes



OFFICE OF THE
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of British Columbia

progress audits to determine if government has fairly and accurately represented its progress to the committee.

The full report is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at: www.bcauditor.com/pubs

Auditor General Carol Bellringer will answer questions pertaining to the report via a news conference and in-person should a visual be required after the news conference.

News Conference Date: Feb. 9, 2017

Time: 11 a.m. (Pacific)

Dial-in Information:

From Vancouver: 604 681-0260

From elsewhere in Canada and the USA: 1 877 353-9184

Participant Pass Code: 44848#

During question and answer period, to ask a question: Press 01

During question and answer period, to exit the question queue: Press #

About the Office of the Auditor General of B.C.

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The Auditor General Act empowers the Auditor General and staff to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

Contact us:

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For general questions, call Colleen Rose, Manager, Communications: 250-419-6207

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