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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WESTAC welcomes Federal Minister's announcement on Gateway projects**

Vancouver, B.C. – The Western Transportation Advisory Council (WESTAC) welcomes today's announcement by the Honourable David Emerson, Minister of International Trade & Minister for the Pacific Gateway & the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics on BC Lower Mainland Gateway projects.

These six strategic infrastructure projects will contribute \$517 million and leverage an additional \$1 billion in investment. The announcement highlights the Federal commitment to Canada's trade-related transportation infrastructure. This will better equip Western Canada's multi-modal transportation system to secure a larger share of North America's trade with the growing Asia-Pacific.

"As Minister Emerson said, it is time to move past procrastination and delay," agrees WESTAC President, Ruth Sol.

"We are investing today for the next generation of Canadians, with safety and environmental sustainability as cornerstones. Projects such as the South Fraser Perimeter Road and Roberts Bank road/rail grade separations will enhance the quality of life for the citizens in the municipalities while expediting freight movement for the benefit of Canada."

Since 1973, WESTAC has been a leader and influential advocate for the transportation industry. Its history of informed dialogue and debate and support from industry leaders make WESTAC a prime candidate to facilitate the consultation and planning processes to advance the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.

WESTAC is a non-profit association of major transportation organizations, represented by senior business, labour and government decision makers. Its objective is to promote transportation as a critical sector supporting trade, jobs and our high standard of living. Visit [www.westac.com](http://www.westac.com) for more information.

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For further information:

Ruth Sol,  
President, WESTAC  
(604) 687-8691

Curtis Harling  
Communications Coordinator, WESTAC  
(604) 687-8691