

## **CARD #13 FUNDING FOR ALIGNMENT STUDY**

- Municipalities
- Provincial Government
- Port Metro Vancouver
- Private + other

## **DETAIL SCRIPT FOR #13 FUNDING FOR ALIGNMENT STUDY**

The municipalities of White Rock and Surrey have been wonderfully supportive of moving forward on our subject 'alignment study'. There have been public forums, administrative action, political reports, and most importantly there has been allocation of funds by both towards funding for the alignment study; see table at left. We have in November 2019 confirmed this positive support.

The BC Provincial Government while under the Liberal Party of BC until mid-2017, were supportive of moving forward on the subject 'alignment study'. This government was also responsible for generating a report requesting action by the Federal Government on this file. Whether they actually set aside funding for the study, in a separate budget category, is unknown at this time. The need for our Peninsula citizens to continue as advocates, in conjunction with other stakeholders, to encourage the present BC Coalition Government to fully engage and to provide the needed financial support for the alignment study, is obvious. See table at left for a possible 'funding allocation' between stakeholders.

Port Metro Vancouver was relatively silent regarding this rail relocation initiative as well as the potential economic benefits, up to the fall of 2019. Up to that point, we as advocates had kept them apprised with written correspondence. Political figures municipal and provincial have also sent them copies of their own reports sent to BC and Federal government agencies. We have heard nothing negative from them. WE have now had one meeting with their capital management folks in November 2019, and we have agreed to meet again in January or February of 2020.

Federal Government action has been positive but reserved. First, Gordie Hogg our recent local MLA, has been highly supportive of our RR initiative and has engaged extensively with Federal Transportation Minister Marc Garneau, resulting in interim safety improvements along this rail route. Second, funding part of the costs of the alignment [feasibility] study is not immediately forthcoming; possibly they wish to remain freely open to receiving the future application to their CTA [see cards #10 and #12]. An excellent summary of these positions is represented front and centre in Hogg's Spring 2019 newsletter; see Newsletter link here. We have also sent snail-mail letters of introduction to the new federal MLA Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, and as of late Dec 2019 await her response.

Private donor funding is now emerging as a strong possibility to assist in completing total funding for the alignment study; see card #17 for details and implementation, as well as the table to the left. We applaud the 'Friends of the Pier Fundraising Committee' for taking their own initiative to raise \$2M from private donations to cover shortfalls in future capital costs to rebuild the White Rock Pier; see WR Pier link here