BIBLIOGRAPHY AND CHRONOLOGY OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

PREPARED BY FRANCES CHRISTOPHERSON

FIFTY YEARS OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA CELEBRATING THE PAST ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

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Chairman

FIFTY YEARS OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA CELEBRATING THE PAST, ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE:

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PART II CHRONOLOGY

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LOCATION OF PUBLICATIONS

A maximum of two locations are given, although in some instances publications are held by more than two institutions. Acronyms for locations cited are indicated below.

BCPA	B.C. Public Archives	NORINST	Northern Institute
BPL	Burnaby Public Library	ORL	Okanagan Regional Library
CAM	Camosun College	RDKB	Regional District of Kootenay
CNC	College of New Caledonia	RDN	Regional District of Nanaimo
CLN	Cariboo Library Network	SELKC	Selkirk College
CVAN	City of Vancouver	SFU	Simon Fraser University
CVANENG	City of Vancouver Engineering	UBC	University of British Columbia
FVRD	Fraser Valley Regional District	UCCAR	University College of the
FVRL	RL Fraser Valley Regional Library		Cariboo University of Victoria
GVRD	Greater Vancouver Regional District	VCA	Vancouver City Archives
LEGLIB	Legislative Library, Province of B.C.	VIRL	Vancouver Island Regional Library
MALA	Malaspina University College	VPL	Vancouver Public Library
NVDL	North Vancouver District Library	WVML	West Vancouver Memorial Library

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LEGLIB; UVIC

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 LEGLIB; UBC
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- Deleuw Cather and Co. of Canada. 1970. Report on the Greater Vancouver Area Rapid Transit Study. Prepared for the Joint Transportation Committee, Greater Vancouver Regional District and B.C. Hydro and Power Authority. Vancouver. v.1: Report; v. 2: Technical appendix. Results of an investigation of the role for rapid transit in the Greater Vancouver area.
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 Victoria: Province of B.C. and Greater Vancouver Regional District. v.1: Summary report;
 v.2: Main report; v.3: Consultations and communications; v.4: Technical report; v.5:
 Report of the Goods Movement Working Group.
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 Vancouver.

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. Development Services Department. 1990. *Living Close to Work: A Policy Review.* Burnaby.

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1991. Planning, Managing and Financing Regional Transportation in the Greater Vancouver Area. Burnaby.

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- Murray, Peter S. 1991. Suburb-to-suburb Commuting and Transit Planning: A Case Study of Surrey, B.C. Vancouver: School of Community and Regional Planning, University of B.C., M.A. thesis.

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 - Aims to determine which suburban markets have potential for transit and factors that could increase this potential. Case study results were used to develop a conceptual framework for suburb-to-suburb transit planning. UBC
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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. Development Services. 1993. Regional Transportation Implications of Neighbourhood-level Planning Initiatives. Burnaby.

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Large Urban Regions Might Cope with the Disappearance of the Private Automobile in the
Early Part of the 21st Century: Report on Phase 1, Focus on Land Use and Transportation,
Including Report of the Vancouver Team, Report of the Toronto Team. Toronto: Canadian
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Building upon data and material available from previous and ongoing studies, such as Creating Our Future, Livable Region Strategy and Transport 2021, envisages land use

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1995. A Comprehensive Overview of Transportation Demand Management Public Opinion Research. Burnaby.

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1995. Model Calibration Reports. v.1-3 Burnaby. v.1:

 GVRD EMME2 Transportation Planning Manual; v.2: Calibration of the 1992 GVRD

 Transportation Model; v.3: Disaggregate demand modelling discussion paper.

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- Mah, Byron. 1995. Review and Evaluation of Strategy Behind Bicycle Transportation Policy in Greater Vancouver. Vancouver: School of Community and Regional Planning, University of B.C., M.A. thesis.

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- Perkins, Ralph A. 1995. "Improving the Cycling Environment in Greater Vancouver," *Plan Canada* 35, 3 (May): 11-14.

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1996. *Transportation Demand Management Project: Final Report*. Burnaby.

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1996. *Transportation Demand Management Project:*Appendices. Burnaby: 1996.

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1996. *Transportation Governance Workshop: Summary Report*. Burnaby: 1996.

 Consolidates background material from the Strategic Planning Committee Workshop on Transportation Governance held on July 10, 1996. GVRD
- Oyhenart, Gregory John Peter. 1996. A Multiple Criteria Decision Process: The Case Study of Rapid Transit in Greater Vancouver. Vancouver: School of Community and Regional Planning, University of B.C., M.A. thesis.

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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1997. Future Research Priorities Model Enhancement Program. Burnaby.

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 Key findings include a Major road network, identification of potential provincial elements, cost estimates, and possible allocation of road functions. GVRD
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 Future research priorities model enhancement program.
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 calibration of the model to the 1992 travel survey, and describe other model research.
 GVRD
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- Greater Vancouver Regional District. 1998. Financial Implications of the Recommended Agreement on Transportation Governance and Funding for Greater Vancouver. Burnaby. Provides a snapshot of present conditions of the roads being transferred by the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Highways to the municipalities. GVRD
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- Greater Vancouver Transit Authority. Transition Team. 1998. Organizational Study: Greater Vancouver Bus Operations. v.1: Executive summary; v.2: Final report; v.3: Appendices. Burnaby.

region. GVRD; VPL

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 WVML
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- Dewdney-Alouette Regional District. Transportation Study Committee. Mainland-Southwest: Region 2. 1989. *Recommendations*. Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of State for Mainland/Southwest.

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- Regional District of Fraser-Cheam. Transportation Study Committee. 1989. *Recommendations*. Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of State for Mainland/Southwest.

- Discusses objectives, planning process, transportation issues, proposed projects and initiatives. UBC; WVML
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. Transportation Study Committee. 1989. Recommendations. Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of State for Mainland/Southwest.
 - Discusses objectives, planning process, transportation issues, proposed projects and initiatives. UBC
- Sunshine Coast Regional District. Transportation Study Committee. 1989. *Recommendations*. Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of State for Mainland/Southwest.
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- Capital Regional District. Cycling Strategy Task Force. 1993. Cycling as a Transportation Strategy. Victoria.

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 UBC; UVIC
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- Fraser Valley Regional District. 1998. *Transportation: A Scan of the Current Operating Environment*. Mission, B.C.

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Outlines implications for transportation planning for four growth scenarios (based on forecast ranges) within the FVRD. FVRD

CRONOLOGY OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA 1860 - 1999 WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE LOWER MAINLAND

- 1860: Incorporation of the City of New Westminster
- 1862: Incorporation of the City of Victoria.
- 1865: Ordinance passed by the Colony of British Columbia setting out guidelines for municipal organization.
- 1873: A new act for municipalities passed enabling municipalities to tax and collect fees, in addition to other powers.
- 1874: Incorporation of the City of Nanaimo.
- 1886: Issuance of Vancouver Charter by the Provincial Government, providing for separate governance of the City of Vancouver.
- 1890-1891: Vancouver Street Railway started operation of electric transit cars in the downtown Vancouver area; Westminster Street Railway Co. began running streetcars in New Westminster and Westminster, and Vancouver Tramway Co. initiated electric interurban service between Vancouver and New Westminster, the second such service in Canada.
- 1894: The Consolidated Railway and Light Co. acquired street railway systems in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria, including interurban service.
- 1896: Municipal Incorporation Act and Municipal Clauses Act providing cities and towns and districts superseded earlier municipal legislation and remained essentially the same until the Municipal Act was adopted in 1955.
- 1897: British Columbia Electric Railway Co. absorbs operations of the Consolidated Railway and Light Co.
- 1909: The Canadian Federal Government established the Commission of Conservation of Natural Resources (C.C.N.R.) to promote "town planning" in Canada. Under the guidance of Thomas Adams, the C.C.N.R. worked for the adoption of Provincial town planning statutes.
- 1911: Burrard Peninsula Joint Sewerage Committee, with members from the municipalities of Vancouver, Point Grey, South Vancouver and Burnaby, established to manage pollution and sewage disposal in the area.
- 1912: Thomas Mawson's Report on Coal Harbour and Stanley Park prepared for the Corporation of Point Grey was unveiled.
- 1913: R.S. Lea's final report to the Burrard Peninsula Joint Sewerage Committee describing drainage areas, methods for disposal and collection of sewage, and proposed works, as well as powers of joint boards in other areas.
- 1914: An Act providing for the Joint Sewerage and Drainage system for the City of Vancouver and adjoining districts was assented to by March 4, 1914, S.B.C. 1924, c.79, by the B.C.

- Legislature. The Vancouver and Districts Joint Sewerage and Drainage Board was established to provide services to Vancouver, Point Grey, South Vancouver and Burnaby.
- 1914: Union of British Columbia Municipalities endorsed the passing of a Town Planning Act for the Province, the first of five successive years that they endorsed such action.
- 1914: The Vancouver City Planning and Beautifying Association was formed by the Vancouver Board of Trade.
- 1917: The Civic Bureau was established as a committee of the Vancouver Board of Trade and began to regularly lobby the Province on planning powers.
- 1918: The Union of British Columbia Municipalities, at its annual meeting, instructed its solicitor to draft a "town planning act" with the aid of Thomas Adams.
- 1919: The Town Planning Institute of Canada was established, with Thomas Adams as its first president.
- 1920-1922: The British Columbia Technical Association and Associated Boards of Trade of British Columbia requested that the Provincial Government establish Provincial planning legislation.
- 1921: Vancouver City Council passed a motion favouring adoption of planning legislation.
- 1921: The Town Planning Committee of the Vancouver City Council was formed.
- 1921: The Vancouver Board of Trade requested that the Provincial Government enact a Town Planning Act during the 1921 session of the Legislature.
- 1922: F.E. Buck and J. Alexander Walker founded the Vancouver Branch of the Town Planning Institute of Canada.
- 1922: The Vancouver Board of Trade drafted a "town planning bill" introduced into the 1922 session of the B.C. Legislature, but which was not passed.
- 1922: Amendments to section 54 of chapter 52 of the Municipal Act of British Columbia gave powers to municipal councils to fix building lines, fix future street rights-of-way, fix housing densities, regulate noxious industries and to "zone" their municipalities into residential, commercial and industrial areas.
- 1922: The District of Point Grey passed a zoning by-law, the first municipality in Canada to so.
- 1922: Report by E.A. Cleveland to T.D. Patullo, Minister of Lands, on the desirability of some form of joint control of water supply to municipalities in the Greater Vancouver region.
- 1924: An Act to incorporate the Greater Vancouver Water District was assented to December 19, 1924 by the B.C. Legislature, S.B.C. 1924, c. 22.
- 1924: Vancouver City Council formally endorsed the principle of town planning legislation after pressure from the Town Planning Institute, Vancouver Branch, Vancouver Board of Trade, Associated Boards of Trade of British Columbia, Vancouver Real Estate Exchange and the Vancouver Fire Insurance Agents' Association.

- 1924-1925: A joint committee of civic officials and representatives from the Vancouver Branch of the Town Planning Institute of Canada met to draft a City Planning Bill, most of which was written by a member of the Vancouver Branch, Arthur G. Smith. In 1925, this draft bill was considered by the Provincial Legislature and passed into law in a modified form.
- 1925: The Town Planning Act (S.B.C. 1925, c.55) was adopted, which gave municipalities the authority to prepare and adopt an "official town plan," to enact a zoning bylaw and to establish a "town planning commission." These powers were optional, not obligatory.
- 1925: The Vancouver Branch of the Town Planning Institute of Canada requested Vancouver City Council to set up an unofficial town planning commission in anticipation of the Act's passage. This commission lobbied on behalf of the Town Planning Bill.
- 1926: The Vancouver Town Planning Commission was established and authorized to assist City Council in an advisory capacity relating to modifications of the city plan and zoning ordinance.
- 1926: The Greater Vancouver Water District (G.V.W.D.) was created.
- 1928-1929: Harland Bartholomew and Associates prepared the first comprehensive town plan in B.C. for the Vancouver Town Planning Commission. This plan, entitled A Plan for the City of Vancouver including Point Grey and South Vancouver and a General Plan of the Region, was revised in 1929 to include the newly-added municipalities of South Vancouver and Point Grey.
- 1929: The City of Vancouver amalgamated with the municipalities of Point Grey and South Vancouver on January 1, 1929.
- 1929: Vancouver Hospital Survey Commission report published recommending that hospital facilities be decentralized and that a Metropolitan Hospital Board be established.
- 1930: A new Town Planning Commission was established on January 27, 1930 and, with the assistance of Harland Bartholomew, took over drafting of a comprehensive zoning by-law which was passed by Vancouver City Council on June 6, 1930.
- 1936: A citizens' group, calling itself the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Association, was founded, and chaired by Mr. H.V. Jackson, "on the premise that the Lower Mainland is a single social and economic unit and should be planned as a whole." (Reference Book, Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board, New Westminster, B.C., 1969.)
- 1936-1948 Establishment of four-area health/hospital boards. (Bish, Local government in British Columbia, 1990)
- 1937: J. Alexander Walker, Engineer-Secretary of the Vancouver Town Planning Commission prepared a brief, entitled "The Need and Scope for a Provincial Planning Board," which was used as a basis for a speech on Provincial planning in the B.C. Legislature by J.A. Paton, M.L.A. Vancouver-Point Grey.
- 1938-1939: The Lower Mainland Regional Planning Association was established, with planning representatives from Vancouver, Coquitlam, Port Moody, West Vancouver, along with commissioners of North Vancouver and Burnaby. Its purpose was to discuss land use and other matters, which were recognized as metropolitan and regional in nature. The association ceased to meet with the onset of war.

- 1938: The Lower Mainland Municipal Association (formerly called the Fraser Valley Municipal Association) was created.
- 1939: The draft Act re Provincial planning, was prepared by J. Alexander Walker, Engineer-Secretary of the Vancouver Town Planning Commission and presented to the B.C. Legislature by J.A. Paton, M.L.A. Vancouver-Point-Grey.
- 1942: The Post-War Rehabilitation Act, S.B.C. 1942 was passed February 12: "An Act to make provision for advance planning of rehabilitation measures, industrial reorganization and employment projects designed to meet Post-War conditions."
- 1943: The Vancouver Town Planning Commission prepared "Proposed Provincial Planning Act with Supporting Data," under the guidance of its chair, Charles Hamilton, and submitted to the Premier of British Columbia.
- 1943: The Post-War Rehabilitation Council (Perry Committee) was established. Its recommendations led to the creation of a Regional Planning Division, that in turn prepared A proposed Lower Mainland Regional Plan (Graham Report), 1945.
- 1945: The B.C. Bureau of Post-War Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Regional Planning Division, undertook a basic study of the resources of the Lower Mainland Region.
- 1946: The Provincial planning office: Planning Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs was established.
- 1946: Beginning of program to convert public transit in Vancouver from street cars to electric trolleys.
- 1947: The "regulated areas" (later renamed the "Community Planning Areas") in unorganized areas were introduced.
- 1947: The Community Planning Association, B.C. Division, focussed on the establishment of a Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board as one of its main objectives. It held a series of meetings with municipalities in the area and with the Minister of Municipal Affairs.
- 1947-1955 Transition from streetcars to buses in the Vancouver area.
- 1948: Emphasis towards local government planning was the response to trends of growth in population and rapid urbanization as well as the impact of one significant event: the flood of 1948 when the Fraser River overflowed its banks from Hope to Richmond. The 1948 flood inundated some 22,000 hectares, nearly one-third of the entire Lower Fraser Valley floodplain area, with damages exceeding \$20 million (1948 \$). All domestic surface transportation and communication facilities between the Lower Mainland region and the rest of the Province were severed, virtually isolating one-half of the Province's total population from the rest of Canada (except for air transport).
- 1948: An Act Respecting Town Planning, (R.S.B.C. 1948, c. 339) was passed by the Legislature, incorporating provisions for "regional areas" and "regional planning boards": the first legislation of its kind in Canada.
- 1949-1964: Six regional planning areas, under the direction of Regional Planning Boards, were established to serve more heavily populated areas of the Province.

- 1949: The Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board was established as a planning area and gazetted by proclamation of the Minister of Municipal Affairs on June 21, 1949. The L.M.R.P.B. was the largest of the six regional planning areas and included all of metropolitan Vancouver as well as the whole Lower Mainland, an area extending 100 miles inland (L.M.R.P.B. Reference Book, section I, 1969). The Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board was appointed to "prepare a plan for the future physical development and improvement in a systematic and orderly manner of the area."
- 1949: The inaugural meeting of the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board was held in New Westminster on September 15, 1949. Each of the then 26 municipalities in the region was invited to send a representative (elected official or staff member); 15 municipalities responded, with the Province appointing a representative for the Unorganized Territory in the region. Initially, members were appointed for a three-year term.
- 1950-1952: On the recommendation of Harland Bartholomew and Associates, Vancouver City Council decided that planning for the city required a dedicated planning department, which was in place by 1952. The new department took over the technical aspects of planning from the Vancouver Town Planning Commission and the Commission was then primarily recognized as a lay advisory body to Council. In 1971, it was renamed the "Vancouver City Planning Commission".
- 1951: The Capital Regional Planning Board was formed to serve the Greater Victoria area.
- 1951: Harold Spence-Sales and John Bland recommended the establishment of a planning department within in the City of Vancouver.
- 1952: Report prepared on operation of the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service, "the core of which was establishment of regional districts throughout the province, not only for the purpose of constructing hospital facilities, but to share in their direction and support as well. The report was not adopted and regionalization continued on a voluntary basis."
- 1953: Rawn report proposed a new master plan for the Greater Vancouver region to meet area sewage treatment and disposal needs to the year 2000.
- 1953: The Technical Committee for Metropolitan Highway Planning, consisting of engineers of the City of Vancouver, City of New Westminster, District of Burnaby and the B.C. Department of Highways, was formed. Committee membership was later enlarged to include engineers of adjacent municipalities as well as traffic and planning officials of the municipalities and the Provincial government. Terms of reference were to study and report on questions of future arterial highway requirements.
- 1953: The City of Vancouver became and is to this day the only municipality in British Columbia to be governed by its own Act: Vancouver Charter, S.B.C. 1953, c. 55.
- 1954: An ad hoc committee of mayors, called the Reeves and Mayors Committee, began meeting to discuss problems of mutual interest in the metropolitan area.
- 1954: Minister of Municipal Affairs proposed introduction of a two-tiered form of metropolitan government, which was presented to the annual convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, supposedly because an Advisory Planning Commission such as the L.M.R.P.B. could not adequately deal with escalating growth problems and frequent conflicts with member municipalities in the Region.

- 1955: Final year of streetcar operations in the Greater Vancouver area, replaced by bus and trolley coach routes.
- 1955: Adoption of the Municipal Act.
- 1956: An Act to incorporate the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District was assented to March 2, 1956, S.B.C. 1956, c. 59.
- 1956: Formation of the Greater Nanaimo Regional Planning Board.
- 1957: Chapter 42, Municipal Act, S.B.C. 1957 brought provisions for community and regional planning under the Municipal Act and made provision for Councils of two or more adjacent municipalities to set up a Joint Committee "to study and report on such matters of an intermunicipal nature as shall be set out by the Minister in his directive" with members appointed annually by the municipality they represented.
- 1957: The Minister of Municipal Affairs directed the Councils of 11 municipalities in the Lower Mainland area to set up a joint committee to study water supply, sewerage treatment facilities, public health and public hospitals, land use planning and regional parks. These municipalities were: Cities of Vancouver, Port Moody, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Port Coquitlam; Districts of North Vancouver, Fraser Mills, West Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam, and the Township of Richmond. The committee established was called the Metropolitan Joint Committee (or the Hugo Ray Committee, after its Chair).
- 1959: The short-lived Metropolitan Hospital Planning Council was established with municipal representatives and representatives from various medical and hospital bodies to review present facilities and services as well as long-range plans in metropolitan area hospitals "with a view to possible integration and co-ordination in the future."
- 1960: The Metropolitan Joint Committee, chaired by Hugo Ray, issued its report recommending formation of a metropolitan government in the Vancouver region but no action on its recommendations was taken.
- 1961: Provincial government takeover of B.C. Electric as a crown corporation renamed B.C. Hydro and Power Authority.
- 1960's: Creation of Thompson-Okanagan Planning Body.
- 1963: Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board published Chance and Challenge, outlining many of the policies formerly adopted in the L.M.R.P.B.'s Official Regional Plan for the Lower Mainland Planning Area, 1966.
- 1965: Regional District legislation (S.B.C. 1965, c.28) allowing for incorporation of regional districts was adopted by the Province, "which made it possible to provide a federated approach to local control over problems transcending municipal boundaries in either a metropolitan area or in a non-metropolitan trading area."
- 1965: Criteria announced by the Province for establishing Regional District boundaries: a population of at least 30,000; an assessment base (taxable for school purposes) of at least \$40 million; a well-integrated transportation infrastructure, and presence of at least one trade centre and borders based on two or more of the 70 school districts into which the province was divided. Two statutory functions were assigned to the new entities:

- regional land use planning and regional hospital planning but in practice the only mandatory function was regional planning. Additional functions were to be assigned by Cabinet if they were supported by participating municipalities or electoral areas.
- 1965: Incorporation of the first Regional District, Comox-Strathcona on August 9, 1965, and shortly thereafter the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, East-Kootenay, and North Okanagan.
- 1965: Enactment of Regional Parks Act (S.B.C 1965, c. 43), providing for incorporation of regional park districts.
- 1966: The Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board's Official Regional Plan for the Lower Mainland Planning Area, establishing regional land use planning in the Lower Mainland area, was adopted.
- 1966: The Regional Districts of Alberni-Clayoquot, Bulkley-Nechako, Capital, Mount Waddington, and Okanagan-Similkameen were incorporated.
- 1967: The Regional District of Fraser-Burrard (later renamed Greater Vancouver Regional District), with 14 member municipalities and two electoral areas, was created by Letters Patent issued June 29, 1967. The first meeting was held on July 12, 1967.
- 1967: The Regional Hospital District Act, R.S.B.C., c.43, was enacted enabling Regional Hospital Districts (companion corporations to Regional Districts) to assume local responsibility for establishing, planning, financing and constructing hospital facilities in B.C.
- 1967: The Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District was created.
- 1967: The Vancouver-Fraser Parks District, with 11 participating municipalities, was incorporated by Letters Patent issued under Order in Council 2506, approved August 3, 1967.
- 1967: The Regional Districts of Central Fraser Valley, Central Okanagan, Cowichan Valley, Dewdney Alouette, Fraser-Cheam, Fraser-Fort George, Kitimat-Stikine, Kootenay-Boundary, Nanaimo, Peace River, Powell River, Skeena A, Skeena B, Sunshine Coast and Thompson-Nicola were established.
- 1968: The Regional Districts of Cariboo, Ocean Falls, and Squamish-Lillooet were incorporated. By August 1968, 28 of the designated 29 Regional Districts in B.C. were in operation.
- 1968: A committee was "set-up to investigate British Columbia's proliferating Regional Districts," chaired by Alderman R.A. McMath, Township of Richmond. The Committee reported to the Lower Mainland Municipal Association and recommended that all "inter-municipal and regional agencies in the Lower Mainland be made departments of one regional organization responsible to the municipalities."
- 1968: The Regional District of Fraser-Burrard was renamed the "Greater Vancouver Regional District" by Supplementary Letters Patent issued on June 13, 1968.
- 1968: On December 30, 1968, the G.V.R.D. acquired the regional planning function previously enjoyed by the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board by Supplementary Letters

- Patent. Evolving from the initial period of its existence, when the G.V.R.D. had no specific powers, regional planning became an important function in 1968.
- 1969: The Lower Mainland Planning Board was dissolved as of March 31, 1969, by Order-in-Council No. 4116, December 31, 1968 and its responsibilities were allocated among four Regional Districts: Greater Vancouver Regional District, Central Fraser Valley Regional District, Dewdney-Allouette Regional District and Fraser-Cheam Regional District.
- 1969: The G.V.R.D. Planning Department was established under its first Director of Planning, Harry Lash.
- 1969: The Technical Planning Committee for the G.V.R.D. was established by Supplementary Letters Patent issued September 4, 1969.
- 1970: G.V.R.D. / B.C. Hydro jointly studied regional transportation.
- 1970-1975: Livable Region Proposals (L.R.P.) were developed through an extensive public participation process with major issues explored through a number of technical reports, including among others: public transit, public housing, flood dangers, and information systems. Project Alpha in 1972 was the first major public consultation in this process. Thirty (30) district policy statements were outlined in the Livable Region Program in 1972. The entire organization of the G.V.R.D. Planning Department was program-oriented towards the realization of a Draft Livable Region Strategic Plan.
- 1971: The G.V.R.D. Management Committee (Board Chairman and staff) was formed.
- 1971: The Transportation Committee of the G.V.R.D. Board recommended in a report, entitled Regional Transportation as a G.V.R.D. Function, that the G.V.R.D. should seek responsibility for operating the public transit system. The G.V.R.D. consequently applied to the Province for Letters Patent, to assume the responsibility, but was denied due to the inability to resolve the respective roles of the Province and the G.V.R.D. in setting transportation policies and priorities and carrying out programs. The G.V.R.D. then focussed its attention on the Region's future role in transportation *planning* rather than operation.
- 1971: The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (G.V.S. & D.D.) and the Greater Vancouver Water District (G.V.W.D.) were amalgamated with the G.V.R.D. in 1971 (S.B.C. 1971, c. 22).
- 1971: The "Housing" function was granted to the G.V.R.D. by Supplementary Letters Patent, issued in January 1971, which empowered the Regional District to provide public housing pursuant to the provisions of the B.C. Housing Act, and to provide houses for elderly citizens under, and subject to, the provisions of the Elderly Citizens' Housing Aid Act.
- 1971: Passage of the Municipal Finance Authority Act, which created the Municipal Finance Authority enabled local governments, through their Regional Districts, "to pool their assets and borrowing requests and collectively approach the marketplace, producing benefits in lower borrowing costs."
- 1972: The air pollution control function was acquired by the G.V.R.D. not through Letters Patent under the Municipal Act, but through a provision added to the Pollution Control Act.

- 1972: The Vancouver-Fraser Parks District was dissolved and replaced by adding the Parks function to the Greater Vancouver Regional District by Letters Patent, issued January 13, 1972, and extension of members by Supplementary Letters Patent, issued March 21, 1972.
- 1973: The G.V.R.D. requested and received the collective labour relations function.
- 1973: The Greater Vancouver Tri-Level Committee was established by the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, and the G.V.R.D. One major sub-committee of the Tri-Level Committee was the Vancouver Airport Planning Committee, which consisted of representatives from four levels of government, the private sector and citizens of the Region. Its purpose was to advise on studies needed to ensure that the proposed development of Vancouver International Airport was compatible with the planning of various levels of government and the concerns of the public in the communities involved and to consider and make recommendations on the studies undertaken.
- 1973: The Agricultural Land Commission was established under provisions of the Land Commission Act (R.S.B.C. 1973, c. 46). The Commission, composed of five members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, had nine objectives, among them: preserve agricultural land for farm use, preserve green belt land in and around urban areas, preserve park land for recreational use, and advise and assist municipalities and Regional Districts in the preparation and production of the land reserve plans required for the purpose of this Act. The G.V.R.D. was assigned a role in the "Agricultural Land Reserve" program.
- 1974: Provincial Government created the Islands Trust, a unique single-purpose government designed to give island residents authority for land-use control held elsewhere by regional districts and municipalities. Its provisions encompassed islands in Howe Sound, Haro Strait and the Gulf of George as far north as Lasqueti, Denman and Hornby Islands.
- 1974: Supplementary Letters Patent, issued on April 30, 1974, empowered the G.V.R.D. to create the Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation.
- 1976: The G.V.R.D. published The Livable Region 1976/1986: Proposals to Manage the Growth of Greater Vancouver, the basic document setting forth the Livable Region Strategy program, which proposed a five-part strategy to manage future population growth in the region and to preserve the region's quality of life.
- 1976: The Federal Department of Urban Affairs published Planning in a Human Way: Personal Reflections on the Regional Planning Experience in Vancouver, by Harry Lash, the G.V.R.D.'s first Planning Director. The Livable Region Strategy program was acclaimed as a model of participation in planning.
- 1977: SeaBus link between the North Shore and Vancouver began.
- 1978: The B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs appointed the Regional District Review Committee to make recommendations on jurisdictional roles, functions and responsibilities, political and administrative structures, finances and boundaries of Regional Districts in B.C. (Farmer Commission). This was the first comprehensive review of Regional Districts since their inception.

- 1978: The British Columbia Urban Transit Authority Act was introduced, setting forth the purpose, organization and funding formula of the B.C. Urban Transit Authority, a crown corporation created to oversee development of a province-wide transit policy.
- 1979: Establishment of the Metro Transit Operating Company (M.T.O.C.) to run the transit systems in Greater Vancouver and Victoria.
- 1979: Provincial government announces decision to construct ALRT rather than less costly (ongrade) alternatives.
- 1980: The Province created a G.V.R.D. / Urban Transit Authority of B.C. / MetroTransit Operating Commission in response to complaints of lack of local input from the G.V.R.D.
- 1980: Authority for urban transit was transferred to the G.V.R.D. by Letters Patent, issued January 3, 1980.
- 1980: Provincial Government announced plans to build a rapid transit system for Greater Vancouver.
- 1980: The 1966 Official Regional Plan for the Lower Mainland Planning Area was updated by the four Regional Districts in the area: 1980 Plan for the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.
- 1980: Supplementary Letters Patent were issued January 3, 1980, granting the function of urban transit to the G.V.R.D.
- 1981: Bill 9, Land Use Act, tabled in the Legislature.
- 1982: Labour negotiations were added as a function of the G.V.R.D. by Supplementary Letters Patent, dated November 22, 1982.
- 1982: The B.C. Urban Transit Authority was replaced by B.C. Transit, "because the Province funds public transit systems that operate in rural areas as well as urban areas," which shortly recommended that transit service but not financial responsibility be removed from regional districts.
- 1983: The function of urban transit, granted to the G.V.R.D., was rescinded effective March 31, 1983. The province established provincially appointed Regional Transit commissions in Greater Vancouver and Victoria.
- 1983: Bill 9, the Municipal Amendment Act, eliminated the regional planning authority of Regional Districts and adopted the legal status of Official Regional Plans. The provincial government's argument was that regional plans were a duplication of settlement and community plans and that their elimination would reduce the costs of planning and land use regulations.
- 1983-1986: The Provincial government initiated another review of Regional Districts through the Regional District Survey Committee, chaired by Dan Campbell. In 1986, the Commission set forth proposed Regional District legislation.
- 1983-1988: The Greater Vancouver Regional District, virtually alone among Regional Districts in B.C., continued to provide regional development services through the establishment of the Development Services role and through individual contracts with its member

- municipalities, including the provision of data and forecasts on regional demographics; provision of transportation data and modeling services; coordination of inter-municipal policy initiative; and promotion of regional economic development.
- 1985: Bill 62, Municipal Amendment Act, S.B.C., c.79, was passed limiting use of development permits, increasing powers of the Minister in electoral area planning, and restricting content of official community plans to land use and servicing requirements.
- 1985: Enactment of the B.C. Transit Amendment Act that absorbed Metro Transit Operating Commission (M.T.O.C.) which had operated Greater Victoria and Lower Mainland transit services) "under an umbrella, B.C. Transit Boards, which gave the Transit Boards unlimited management rights in dealing with unions."
- 1985: G.V.R.D. undertook a \$500,000 transportation study, entitled 1985 Metropolitan Vancouver Origin-Destination Travel Survey.
- 1986: The first 21.4 kilometre rapid transit line (SkyTrain) between downtown Vancouver and New Westminster was completed.
- 1988: The function of Development Services was granted to the G.V.R.D. by Letters Patent, issued on August 17, 1988.
- 1988: Douglas Mackay was appointed to review Regional District boundaries in the Lower Mainland.
- 1988: The City of Langley and the Township of Langley were transferred from the Central Fraser Valley Regional District to the G.V.R.D. through Supplementary Letters Patent, dated November 10, 1988.
- 1989: Bill 19, the Municipal Amendment Act, was adopted enabling Regional Districts to provide regional development services (not regional planning services) for the Regional District: provisions and maintenance of information of the Regional District's growth and development; participation in Provincial and Federal government programs related to development of the region; coordinating or preparing inter-municipal or combined electoral area/municipal development strategies; other research studies and investigations of interest to the Regional District or areas within it.
- 1989: The Greater Vancouver Regional District Board adopted its seven livability goals for Greater Vancouver as a starting point for the Choosing our Future process: a region in nature; an economy of growth and change; accessibility for people and goods; a healthy and safe region; a region of diversity and vitality; an equitable region; an efficient region.
- 1989: Jointly-funded provincial-G.V.R.D. transportation reports, released by the Greater Vancouver Transportation Task Force, included the preparation of a transportation strategy, the establishment of a 2001 transportation plan, and the setting of short-term priorities.
- 1990: The Greater Vancouver Regional District Board endorsed the Creating our Future: Steps to a More Livable Region, an action plan providing a regional framework for maintaining and enhancing the "livability" of Greater Vancouver and identified its 54 action steps. (The Livable Region Strategy revisited).

- 1993: The G.V.R.D. Board endorsed the Livable Region Strategy: Proposals, recommending accommodation of more growth within the central area of the Lower Mainland adjacent to the regional town centres of Surrey, New Westminster and Burnaby.
- 1993: Transport 2021, a joint, two-year project funded equally by the Province of B.C. and the G.V.R.D., released a series of reports, including the Transport 2021 Long-Range Plan for Greater Vancouver
- 1993-1997 Creation of regional health boards, community health councils and community health service societies to take over the public health function, previously the responsibility of municipalities and regional districts.
- 1994: The New Westminster/Scott Road (Surrey) 4.3 kilometre extension of SkyTrain was completed.
- 1995: The Growth Strategies Statutes Amendment Act (subsequently referred to as the Growth Strategies Act), was enacted in June 1995, to provide a framework for coordinated planning among local governments, the Province and other agencies. (These growth strategies provisions are now incorporated into in the Municipal Act, part 25).
- 1995: The District of Pitt Meadows and the District of Maple Ridge were transferred from the Dewdney-Alouette Regional District to the G.V.R.D. through Supplementary Letters Patent, issued July 6, 1995.
- 1995: The Fraser Valley Regional District was formed by amalgamating the former municipalities and areas of the three Fraser Valley Regional Districts: Central Fraser Valley, Dewdney-Alouette and Fraser-Cheam with the objective of creating a stronger governance framework for effective regional growth management. Letters Patent were presented on December 12, 1995.
- 1996: The Livable Region Strategic Plan was adopted by the G.V.R.D. Board of Directors on January 26, 1996. The Livable Region Strategic Plan was subsequently deemed a "regional growth strategy" by the Minister of Municipal Affairs on February 10, 1996.
- 1997: The Peace River-Liard Regional District was split to create the Fort Nelson-Liard and Peace River Regional Districts. The Regional District of Fort Nelson-Liard, was incorporated and renamed as Regional District of the Northern Rockies, in 1999.
- 1998-1999: Major changes to the Municipal Act passed, enhancing municipal government powers.
- 1998: The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Act, which gave the GVRD new powers in transit, major roads, air care and transportation demand management (T.D.M.) as well as revenue sources, was adopted.
- 1998: The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Act removed hospital financing as a Regional District responsibility.
- 1998: The provincial government announced plans for a SkyTrain extension between Columbia Street in New Westminster to Lougheed Mall in Burnaby. This extension was to be followed by extensions from Lougheed Mall to Broadway SkyTrain Station then to Glen Drive in Vancouver; and from Lougheed Mall to Coquitlam Centre and west to Granville or Arbutus Street in Vancouver.

1999: The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority, which took over transit services for the region from BC Transit on April 1, 1999, was renamed "TransLink," with its overall purposes to: improve the quality and availability of public transit services and transportation demand management to increase transportation choices and reduce the reliance on single occupant vehicles; support a major road network to improve the movement of people and goods throughout the region; and provide transportation infrastructure and services which support the region's growth strategy, economic development and air quality objectives.