

## Funding referendum at least six months away

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A referendum on transportation funding probably won't happen until the end of March 2015 and will most likely be a mail-in ballot with a question about road pricing. Richard Walton, chairman of the mayors' council on regional transportation, said while the mayors and province are still hammering out a referendum question, a regional carbon tax and mobility pricing - such as tolling all the bridges - are both on the table as potential funding sources.

A small sales tax or vehicle levy are also being considered. A question is expected to be devised by Sept. 20, he added, but it will have to be approved by the provincial government.

Walton, who is also mayor of North Vancouver District, said the referendum will be a tough sell, noting a similar referendum in Los Angeles passed by 67 per cent but that city had 32 months to prepare.

By comparison, Metro Vancouver will have just six months to get the public and province to support new funding sources to expand transit across the region.

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