

B.3

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Amtrak

MOVER: Councillor Suzanne Anton

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS:

1. Amtrak wishes to add a second daily train between Vancouver and Seattle;
2. The economic benefit of the second train to the economy of the Lower Mainland would be between \$16m and \$33m per year;
3. The economic benefit in GST, PST and hotel room taxes would be about \$1.87m per year;
4. Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) has requested Amtrak to pay the \$1500 per day required for additional staff time, although it has agreed to suspend the fees during the Olympic period;
5. It would be desirable for CBSA to waive the fee starting immediately;
6. Mayor Robertson has been promoting the fee waiver and the second Amtrak train;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Vancouver City Council supports Amtrak in its efforts to bring a second daily train to Vancouver from Seattle;
2. Vancouver City Council requests Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) to waive the extras fees required by the second Amtrak train, beginning immediately and continuing indefinitely;
3. Vancouver City Council supports Mayor Robertson in his efforts in regard to the second Amtrak train;
4. Vancouver City Council requests that Mayor Robertson write to both the Federal and Provincial Governments indicating the support of this Council for the additional Amtrak train and the waiver of fees by CBSA.

* * * * *