

## COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION

# B.6

### 6. Declaration to Urge the Government of Canada to Provide Urgent Funding to Assure the Viability of Public Transit During the COVID-19 Pandemic and to Aid Transit Operators to Rebuild Ridership

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

#### WHEREAS

1. The situation of an unprecedented drop in public transit ridership provoked by the COVID-19 outbreak accompanied by massive revenue losses is affecting public transit agencies right across Canada putting in jeopardy their financial viability and future ability to operate;
2. The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) Canada's largest public transport lobby, the membership of which includes most Canadian transit agencies, has called for urgent emergency funding to address the immediate liquidity issues of transit operators while providing financial stability while ridership rebuilds;
3. CUTA estimates as many as 40 percent of systems may require bridge funding over the coming months requiring some \$1.2 billion to help them keep the buses and trains running;
4. CUTA is seeking \$400 million a month to keep services running as fare box and other revenue drop by up to 100 percent;
5. CUTA notes that it will likely take some time for transit operators to rebuild ridership to February 2020 levels during a gradual return to more normal economic activity;
6. Without a quick infusion of funds by the Government of Canada it is impossible to assure that the gains made over the past decade in growing the modal share of all rides taken via collective transit will not be lost;
7. While transit is a provincial jurisdiction, only the Government of Canada has the budgetary capacity to stabilize public transit during the COVID-19 emergency;

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council endorse the Canadian Urban Transit Association's request to the Government of Canada for emergency funding to provide immediate liquidity to transit operators, and ongoing funding to alleviate revenue loss as ridership rebuilds during the pandemic.

- B. THAT Vancouver City Council urge the Government of Canada to continue funding public transit beyond the pandemic and act on funding public transit permanently, recognizing that in addition to capital funding, stable operating funding is needed for local transit agencies to boost ridership, maintain this essential service, and support sustainable travel and climate response.
- C. THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Federal Minister of Transport and the Minister of Finance.
- D. THAT a copy of this motion be sent to Translink and the Mayor's Council, as well as the Premier and Provincial Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure for their information.

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