

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

1. Preserving Bus Ridership During COVID and Beyond

Submitted by: Councillor Swanson

WHEREAS

1. COVID has drastically reduced transit ridership and rebuilding rider confidence will be challenging;
2. Members of the City's Seniors Advisory Committee do not approve of Translink's proposal to reduce the number of bus stops from various bus routes because it forces seniors and persons with disabilities to travel farther on foot or on mobility devices to reach their buses, causing hardship to a considerable number of people;
3. The West End Seniors Network and Riley Park South Cambie Community Visions Steering Committee among other organizations are opposed to removing bus stops;
4. While Translink is consulting with some people on what they call bus line "balancing", many riders who would normally participate in such consultations were following the Provincial Health Officer's instruction to stay home and therefore are not aware of the consultation or the changes;
5. The City of Vancouver should be applying the same equity lens to transit decisions as to all other governmental decisions;
6. The proposals to reduce the number of bus stops fails to recognize that large percentage of the people who use transit have lower incomes with fewer other transportation options; are women and racialized; and
7. The planned fare increase of 2.3% to take effect on July 1 will undermine the goal of increasing ridership and improving equity on transit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct the Mayor to inform Translink that Vancouver Council recommends that they consult with seniors and disability groups, neighbourhood houses, community centres, and the unions of workers who depend on buses before cutting the number of bus stops.
- B. THAT Council direct the Mayor to ask Translink to seek other ways of speeding up buses such as bus-only lanes and barring right hand turns by non-bus traffic.
- C. THAT Council direct the Mayor to inform Translink that Vancouver Council does not support bus fare increases.