

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

4. **Aligning Vancouver's 2023-2026 Capital Plan with Increased Climate Emergency Action**

Submitted by: Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver develops 4-year capital plans aligned with the 4-year election cycle and approval of the capital plan by public vote at the time of a civic election, the next one to be held October 15, 2022;
2. Developing and implementing the City's capital plan is typically an eight-year process: two years to prepare the plan, four years to implement it and two follow-up years to complete construction and wrap up projects. This means that the 2023-2026 capital plan, with projects wrapped up by 2028, must be sufficiently robust to ensure we achieve our city's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) goals to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2030. Because Vancouver has only reduced emissions by 15% to date, the 2023-2026 capital plan should aim to reduce our emissions by close to 35%;
3. Climate scientists are urging governments at all levels to more rapidly reduce GHGs to prevent runaway global warming. If we do not reduce GHGs by at least 50% by 2030 and to net zero carbon by 2050 they predict that climate events such as last summer's "heat dome" that resulted in the deaths of 595 British Columbians, 99 of which were Vancouverites, last fall's "atmospheric river" that caused extensive flooding, landslides and severe damage to transportation infrastructure, the unprecedented tornado in Pacific Spirit Park, and the stronger winds coupled with a higher king tide due to rising sea levels seriously damaged Vancouver's seawall this January, will become more common and more severe in the future.
4. Youth, such as Greta Thunberg on a global level, and the Sustainabiliteens in Vancouver, are calling for political leadership on climate change mitigation stating their future is at stake. Leadership is needed at all levels of government. Leadership both inspires and generates more leadership;
5. On November 3, 2021, staff delivered their first CEAP update to Council stating: "the next capital plan is a significant opportunity to consider CEAP funding";
6. As part of Vancouver 2022 Operating Budget passed on December 7, 2021, Council created an annual \$9 million fund dedicated to new climate emergency action specifically directing that the 2022 funding be spent on measures that will undoubtedly require additional capital spending;

7. Investing more in reducing GHGs now will reduce the greater future costs of adapting to climate-caused changes including more extreme temperatures and rising sea levels, and repairing climate-caused damages to our natural and built environments;
8. Staff's November 3, 2021, Report to Council on CEAP noted surveys showing that 90% of Vancouver residents are concerned about climate but only 10% understand the type and scale of action needed, including that the city must use all tools: regulation, advocacy and investment, and increase accountability by tracking milestones, outcomes and expenditures; and
9. City staff also noted in the November 3, 2021, CEAP Report that there are considerable co-benefits to investments in climate action, including better health, more green space, more equitable and lower cost transportation and an estimation that an overall investment of \$1.3B in CEAP measures will generate \$2.2B in savings including \$1B in savings for Vancouver's residents and businesses over the next decade alone.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A. THAT Council direct staff to:

1. Report back for Council's consideration early in the 2023-2027 capital budget planning process a list of potential capital projects, with associated costs, benefits and estimated GHG reductions, to:
 - i. Achieve the necessary reductions in our city's GHG emissions to reach, at minimum, our stated goal of 50% reductions in GHG emissions below 2007 levels by 2030 and that would significantly move us to being a net zero carbon city by 2050;
 - ii. Simultaneously achieve equity and resilience objectives, including energy retrofits of city and non-profit owned social and non-market rental housing and childcare facilities, increasing the tree canopy city-wide, and increasing renewable energy production including solar hot water and solar voltaic as a resilience measure;
2. Ensure the needed capital funding is in place in the 2022-2026 capital plan to complete new climate emergency projects funded through the city's annual \$9 million climate levy including those noted in the city's 2022 Operating Budget:
 - i. Electric vehicle infrastructure including EV chargers, power drops for community events, chargers in rental buildings and charging infrastructure for the city's fleet and equipment;
 - ii. Transportation measures including transit, slow streets, and walking and cycling improvements including to

Vancouver schools;

- iii. Building retrofits for Vancouver civic facilities including community centers and libraries to reduce GHGs and provide safe centers during extreme weather events;
 3. Establish a regular reporting schedule to Council and the public on the costs and benefits of the funded projects and their contribution to meeting our city's climate emergency goals including emission reductions, increased resiliency and social and economic benefits; and
 4. Continue to seek partnership funding from senior governments and other sources to help finance and more quickly implement climate emergency projects.
- B. THAT Council direct the Mayor to write letters on behalf of Council to the BC Urban Mayors Caucus (BCUMC), Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to advocate for predictable funding to enable achieving the Paris Accord targets of reducing GHGs by 50% by 2030 and net zero carbon by 2050, and cost-sharing arrangements with senior levels of government to help fund and more quickly implement climate emergency projects.

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