

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

### 2. Advancing Rapid Transit and Priority RapidBus Upgrade Projects in Vancouver to Support Complete Communities, Livability and Growth

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

#### WHEREAS

1. TransLink and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation unanimously endorsed the *Access for Everyone Plan* (also called *Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities*) in 2022 to urgently expand and improve transit throughout Metro Vancouver to support record-setting population growth, housing affordability, GHG emission reduction targets and reconciliation;
2. The fastest and most cost-effective contribution the City of Vancouver can make to the *Access for Everyone Plan* is to improve the speed and reliability of existing buses on city roads that the entire region relies on to keep Metro Vancouver moving;
3. Traffic congestion makes existing bus service slower and less reliable for transit riders and more expensive for TransLink to operate, costing the region \$80 million annually with over 35% of delays occurring on streets in the City of Vancouver;
4. TransLink has identified several High Congestion/High Ridership Bus Corridors in the City of Vancouver: on Hastings Street, Kingsway, 49th Avenue and Granville Street. Transit riders are experiencing significant travel delays, and TransLink is shouldering increased operating costs on these streets due to traffic congestion. Residents would benefit from urgent bus speed and reliability improvements on these routes; and
5. Improving the speed and reliability of existing buses on these High Congestion/High Ridership Bus Corridors requires reconfiguring roads for successful implementation. This requires leadership from the City of Vancouver as the primary administrator of these roads.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver supports urgent implementation of bus speed and reliability improvements along the High Congestion/High Ridership Bus Corridors of Hastings Street, Kingsway, 49th Avenue and Granville Street.
- B. THAT Council direct City of Vancouver staff to work expediently with TransLink to plan and deliver Bus Speed and Reliability Projects along the entire length of the High Congestion/High Ridership Bus Corridors of Hasting Street, Kingsway, 49th Avenue and Granville Street, addressing the locations of greatest delays with a goal to improve travel times and service reliability for transit users on these corridors by at least 10% by 2026.
- C. THAT Council affirms that the City of Vancouver support for this project will include:

- Support for prioritizing transit, including willingness to reallocate space from parking or general traffic, changes to property access, bus stop balancing, turn restrictions, changes to traffic signal timing and coordination, and transit signal priority;
  - Willingness to support these projects with the allocation of internal resources and in-kind support;
  - Appointing a “Faster Buses Council champion,” and a bus speed and reliability internal staff lead to support the projects through all phases;
  - Willingness to expedite processes, permits and approvals, and to co-lead and support public engagement as necessary.
- D. THAT Council request the Mayor, on behalf of Vancouver City Council, to ask the Mayors’ Council to replace its commitment in the *Access for Everyone Plan* to undertake a Major Transit Network planning study on the 41st/49th Avenue Corridor with a study on the Hastings Street Corridor between downtown Vancouver and the PNE grounds, to assess its longer-term capacity needs and evaluate potential Rapid Transit technology alternatives.
- E. THAT the City of Vancouver work with TransLink to plan and implement a RapidBus on Southwest Marine Drive to connect the Canada Line in South Vancouver and the Expo Line in New Westminister with bus lanes that could also benefit the other routes along the corridor.

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