

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting of City Council on March 12, 2025*

### **2. Sailing Past Gridlock Towards Sustainable Transportation Options**

Submitted by: Councillor Bligh

#### WHEREAS

1. Traffic congestion in downtown Vancouver and on the Lion's Gate Bridge is a persistent issue, driven in part by a lack of regional transportation options, including for drivers heading to the Sunshine Coast and Bowen Island, and other destinations via Horseshoe Bay;
2. The City of Vancouver's Transportation 2040 plan called for infrastructure to realize a future where alternative forms of transportation, such as by passenger ferry, made transportation more convenient, rapid, affordable, and enjoyable, following the example of cities like San Francisco, Seattle, Singapore, Auckland, and Sydney;
3. The Hullo Ferry, which connects Vancouver and Nanaimo, served 400,000 passengers in its first year, diverting as many as 1,000 people daily from City roads;
4. The last decade and COVID-19 have seen many Vancouver residents move to Bowen Island and the Sunshine Coast, but continue to make regular visits to Vancouver, for reasons including employment, friends and family, recreation, and other interests, deepening the need for connectivity with these communities and expanding Vancouver's role as a regional hub;<sup>1</sup>
5. The Greenline Ferry Service is an unsolicited informal proposal for an all-electric passenger ferry service linking downtown Vancouver, Bowen Island, and the Sunshine Coast, a concept that enjoys popular support from across the region;
6. Downtown Vancouver is the ideal terminus for this ferry, offering easy access to key areas of the city, while also providing excellent connectivity to regional public transit services such as the West Coast Express, Skytrain, Seabus, R5 Rapid Bus, and ample intercept parking and ride-hailing services, which could reduce

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<sup>1</sup><https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=sunshine%20coast&DGUIDlist=2021A00055915062,2021A00035929&GENDERlist=1&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

vehicle traffic through downtown, and help alleviate congestion, while softening air and sound pollution and supporting the city's climate goals; and

7. A passenger ferry service, like Greenline, would revolutionize commutes for local residents and transportation for visitors, boosting economic growth and making it easier to explore B.C.'s beautiful southern coast.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with stakeholders, partners, and park board to consider proposals from potential service providers and report back regarding options and feasibility to land an electric passenger ferry service in Downtown Vancouver.

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