COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on October 8, 2025

5. Next Stop UBC: A Call to Accelerate the Completion of the Broadway SkyTrain

Submitted by: Councillors Orr and Maloney

WHEREAS

- The City of Vancouver has had a history of support for, and securing funding for, the continuation of the Broadway SkyTrain to the University of British Columbia (UBC) and has supported all impacted residents and businesses through the Broadway SkyTrain extension project;
- 2. Over 13,000 UBC students and Vancouver community members have signed the Alma Mater Society's petition calling on the Province of British Columbia to release the Millennium Line UBC Extension (UBCx) business case, and for senior governments to fully fund the project;
- More than 61,000 of UBC's 80,540 students, staff, and faculty commute from off-campus; over 23,000 are City of Vancouver residents. Many already live along the Broadway corridor, and many more are expected to move there in the coming years as its redevelopment proceeds (<u>UBC Campus + Community Planning</u>, 2024);
- 4. With approximately 165,000 daily boardings, Broadway is the busiest transit corridor in Canada and the United States, and the UBC Bus Exchange is the busiest bus loop without rapid transit in Metro Vancouver. Current transit demand already exceeds capacity; each year, the 99 B-Line bus passes-by about 550,000 riders. Multiple studies have confirmed that only SkyTrain would have the capacity to meet the corridor's current and anticipated ridership demands;
- 5. Under current projections, each morning the Broadway SkyTrain will deposit more than 4,000 UBC commuters on the sidewalk, where they must switch to a bus to complete their journey. This will only compound the 99 B-Line capacity issue;
- 6. TransLink projects that UBCx would bring 80% of UBC students, staff, and faculty within a one-hour commute of campus, freeing up capacity on existing transit infrastructure, like the 99 B-Line, and reducing congestion and its associated air and noise pollution impacts on major streets in Vancouver and across the region;
- 7. The Millenium Line Broadway Extension Project's business case recommended studying UBCx as a standalone project (<u>BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure</u>, 2018). The business case is a necessary first step in the Province of British Columbia's financial approvals and planning process. Though the

- province first committed to UBCx in 2008, it has yet to materially advance the project;
- 8. In 2021 the provincial and federal governments together agreed to fund the UBCx business case. However, the study remains incomplete with no recent announcements or updates on its delivery timeline;
- 9. More than 92% of Metro Vancouver residents support UBCx. In 2022, the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation prioritized the project by including it in its 10-year plan (UBC Rapid Transit, 2021); and
- 10. UBCx would connect residents of Vancouver and the rest of the Lower Mainland to jobs, services, education, and cultural areas on the UBC Vancouver campus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council calls upon the Province of British Columbia to expedite work on the business case for the UBC SkyTrain Extension (UBCx).
- B. THAT Council calls upon the Province of British Columbia to develop and commit to a comprehensive timeline for planning and implementing UBCx.
- C. THAT Council calls upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to commit to funding UBCx in cooperation with TransLink, UBC, First Nations, and other relevant local partners.
- D. THAT Council directs the Mayor to write to the Premier of British Columbia, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Federal Minister of Transportation, the Federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, the Provincial Minister of Transportation and Transit, and the Provincial Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs to express Council's support for UBCx, the expedited release of its business case, and commitments to a timeline and funding.

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