COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 18, 2026

15. Rainy Day Fund: Funding for a Covered Bench at Every Bus Stop in Vancouver

Submitted by: Councillor Orr

WHEREAS

1. Almost 20% of all daily trips in the city of Vancouver are made via public transit, with 41% of seniors taking public transit regularly;

2. Despite Vancouver experiencing rain for over 40% of the year and having high transit usage, only an estimated half of bus stops in the City of Vancouver have a covered bench;

3. Analysis of American cities such as Salt Lake City, Utah, and Wilmington, Delaware, show that constructing covered bus benches and improving bus stops is linked to increases in bus ridership;

4. Bus stop improvements can improve accessibility for people with disabilities, and can improve pedestrian safety through greater visibility and by preventing users from waiting too close to the curb;

5. The City of Burnaby launched its Bus Shelter Expansion program in 2023, with a goal of adding 370 new sheltered benches by 2030;

6. The City of Burnaby owns and maintains their own bus shelters, and receives advertising revenue from them; and

7. The City of Vancouver could ensure that 93% of transit riders within the city have a fully covered bench at all sections of their commute by starting rollout at bus stops with over 50 weekday boardings.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to report back by April of 2027 with a report outlining options to construct a covered bench at every feasible bus stop in Vancouver, with construction completed by December of 2029.

B. THAT the report provides a detailed review to determine which stops can feasibly accommodate a sheltered bench.

C. THAT the report outlines timelines and methods to fund the project, including changes to bus shelter design, examining changes to our current public-private partnership model, and revenue from advertising.

D. THAT the report prioritizes bus stops with a ridership of over 50 weekday boardings.

E. THAT the report will outline the feasibility of amenities at bus stops including, but not limited to, solar panel powered lighting, trash cans, and safety features.

F. THAT the report include direction from Council in relation to reprioritizing other approved capital projects currently funded in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan in order to advance the work in whole or in part;

FURTHER THAT, prior to the report, staff allocate funding in the 2027 City of Vancouver budget to build shelters at the 100 highest-utilized bus stops by September 2027.

* * * * *