



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 5, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** August 30 2019
From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Dubow
Subject: Operational Funding for Transit – Federal Election Party Platforms

BACKGROUND

In early August Mayor Helps received the attached letter from Montreal City Councillor Marvin Rotrand requesting that the City of Victoria support the motion attached based on the rationale laid out in Councillor Rotrand's letter.

On August 13th, we brought this motion to the Greater Victoria Transit Commission where it was unanimously endorsed. Recently a letter from the Transit Commission (also attached) was sent to all federal parties.

The City of Victoria has been a strong advocate for Transit. Therefore it is recommended that Council also adopt this resolution and request that the mayor write a letter to all federal parties as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the attached resolution and request that the mayor write a letter to all federal parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dubow".

Councillor Dubow

Motion to Urge the Federal Parties to Commit if Elected to Creating a Program of Funding a Portion of the Operational Budgets of Local Public Transit Providers

Whereas efficient, extensive and reliable public transit systems are vital in promoting sustainable mobility in Canada cutting congestion, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, permitting better land use policies for municipalities and regional authorities while providing commuters better travelling choices;

Whereas municipalities, regional authorities and local public transit providers do not have the tax base or financial resources to build and operate the effective transit systems that Canada requires for a greener future that offers a real alternative to the private automobile and a tool to combat climate change;

Whereas investments in public transit lead to economic growth promoting jobs and prosperity returning payroll and other taxes to the superior levels of Government in return for their investments to augment the offer of public transit;

Whereas population growth as well as the shared value of all the three levels of government to promote denser more compact cities requires more and better transit in the future;

Whereas there is a federal election October 21, 2019 and whereas for the 2015 election all the major political parties responded favourably to the demands of municipalities by inserting in their platforms investments in transit infrastructure;

Whereas the Government of Canada in the 2019 budget augmented gas tax transfers to municipalities to \$4.4 billion and whereas federal and provincial funding for transit infrastructure has and will continue to finance new lines across Canada over the next decade;

Whereas the launch of new lines adds to the operational costs of local transporters with in most cases no identifiable source of funding to boost the transit offer other than transit fares and local taxation;

Therefore be it resolved that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission urge the federal political parties to commit in their 2019 electoral platforms to creating funding to defray the operational costs of local transporters so as to allow new lines and augmented services to be introduced at an affordable cost to riders without over-reliance on local taxation.