



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 2019**

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Sharmarke Dubow
Subject: Transit Week Challenge

Date: November 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Public transit is an essential component of thriving, inclusive and sustainable cities.

Research shows that expanding and improving transit service reduces congestion and GHG emissions across the city. It also stimulates economic productivity by enabling more people, especially equity-seeking groups, to access the city's jobs and services. Research also shows that public transit even improves public safety, reducing vehicular and pedestrian accidents. It also stimulates better health outcomes as transit investment is linked with increased rates of walking and cycling in cities. Cities that rely on transit spend less on transportation infrastructure per capita while also stimulating economic activity and increasing local spending.

Transit ridership increases, as research shows, when the service is fast, frequent and reliable. Transit needs to be as convenient or more convenient than personal vehicles. This also means that the user experience of transit is essential. City councillors, transit officials and Victoria Regional Transit Commission members are responsible for providing transit services to Victoria residents. Therefore, they should experience this service firsthand to gain a better understanding of the service quality and the user experience. By walking in the shoes of those who rely on transit to get to work and essential services every day, those responsible will understand what it feels like to wait for a bus that's late or to miss a bus connection that derails your entire trip.

Moreover, it shows the general public that their elected officials care to understand how well their services are provided. It also provides opportunity for Victoria Regional Transit Commission members to personally collect feedback from their constituents who are transit users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS the City of Victoria has declared a climate emergency and wishes to promote the use of low carbon transportation modes, including public transport;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of public officials to lead by example;

And WHEREAS having direct, hands-on experience better equips public officials to make informed decisions regarding services,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the City of Victoria calls on the members of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and local government and elected officials in capital region to:

1. Commit to using BC Transit services as their sole mode of transportation around the Greater Victoria region for the period of one week.
2. Share their experience with their council, communities and Victoria Regional Transit Commission representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sharmarke Dubow', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Sharmarke Dubow