



**Council Member Motion  
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 5, 2020**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 2, 2020  
**From:** Councillor Potts and Councillor Dubow  
**Subject:** Access to Transit

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**Background:**

The Victoria Regional Transit Commission sets aside a portion of bus tickets and passes that can be purchased at a reduced rate if they are given free of charge to low income individuals with urgent transportation needs. Agencies purchase tickets and passes through the Community Social Planning Council. Purchased tickets are matched on a 1:1 basis with free tickets from the Transit Commission.

Those sheltering outdoors in Victoria are typically not in close proximity to survival services including access to shower facilities. This distance will increase for most as new sheltering bylaws are applied.

The Coalition to End Homelessness is working on behalf of the city to engage with unhoused community members around outdoor sheltering. Outside of housing, access to hygiene and transit have been the top issues raised.

Co-locating shower facilities in parks or opening existing shower facilities that are not currently in operation has been a challenge in terms of physical infrastructure, park bylaws, and city staff capacity.

Providing access to transit is one way to address access to survival services including shower facilities.

There are an estimated 250 individuals sheltering outdoors in Victoria. A sheet of 10 bus tickets costs \$22.50. One sheet per month at maximum subscription would total \$5625. With 1:1 matching the cost would be \$2812.50 per month. Bus passes range from \$45 (youth and seniors) to \$85 (adults) per month and would total between \$11,250 and \$21,250 per month. With 1:1 matching the maximum price range would be half that at \$5625 to \$10,625 per month.

**Recommendation:**

1. That the City of Victoria allocate up to \$10,625 per month to the Community Social Planning Councils BC Transit Ticket Assistance Program, from the financial stability reserve, for the provision of transit fare for persons sheltering outdoors.

2. That the City of Victoria work with the Coalition to End Homelessness, the Community Social Planning Council, and existing distributors to determine a distribution plan for transit fare.
3. That this funding allocation be reviewed in 6 months time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Potts' written in a stylized, cursive font.

Councillor Potts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Dubow' written in a stylized, cursive font.

Councillor Dubow