



MOTION ON NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on 2020-10-19

Vancouver's Transportation Hierarchy - Prioritizing Seniors & People with Disabilities

MOVER: Commissioner Barker

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver's Transportation 2040 Plan's "Vision for Moving People" places an active lifestyle – while improving air quality – as its First Goal. Likewise, public spaces that foster walking, cycling and social interaction is the Second Goal, eliminating traffic-related fatalities and addressing personal security is the Third Goal. Enabling people of all ages and abilities to get to where they need to go in comfort and safety falls last within the Vision;
2. The City's "hierarchy of transportation modes" does not adequately take compromised seniors and people with disabilities into consideration and states that it will consider the needs and safety of each group of road users in the following order of priority: First – walking, Second – cycling, Third – transit, taxi/shared vehicles, and Fourth – private automobiles (page 13 Vancouver Transportation 2040) which are often the only viable means of transportation for compromised seniors and people with disabilities;
3. During the initial COVID-19 response in Vancouver, compromised seniors and people with disabilities were not consulted when transportation changes were made, notably with respect to access and parking issues;
4. Even though we have learned a great deal about the spread of COVID-19, the first response to facilitating corresponding changes to the city's transportation infrastructure has not been to restore the Disabled Parking spots along Beach Avenue, which currently remain behind locked gates;
5. Seniors and People with Disabilities are two groups that have experienced the greatest harm with respect to mobility and transportation, and the isolation that follows, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request that Mayor and Council consider revising the City of Vancouver Transportation Hierarchy such that Compromised Seniors and People with Disabilities who face mobility and transportation challenges be placed at the topmost layer of the City's Transportation Hierarchy and be given status as an overriding level of hierarchy priority.
- B. THAT, until the City's Transportation Hierarchy is revised, all transportation changes made during the COVID-19 Response that diminish or remove services required by Compromised Seniors and People with Disabilities be restored as per the recommendations of the City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee and the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.