



Maintain Transit Accessibility During COVID-19 and Beyond

Excerpted from Minutes 2021-05-31

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MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

WHEREAS:

1. COVID-19 has drastically reduced transit ridership and rebuilding rider confidence will be challenging.
2. Members of the City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee do not approve of TransLink's proposal to reduce the number of bus stops from various bus routes because it forces seniors and persons with disabilities to travel farther on foot or on mobility devices to reach their buses, causing hardship to a considerable number of people.
3. The West End Seniors Network and Riley Park South Cambie Community Visions Steering Committee, among other organizations, are opposed to removing bus stops.
4. While TransLink is consulting with some people on what they call bus line "balancing", many riders who would normally participate in such consultations were following the Provincial Health Officer's instruction to stay home and therefore are not aware of the consultation or the changes.
5. The proposals to reduce the number of bus stops fails to recognize that a large percentage of the people who use transit have lower incomes with fewer other transportation options, and that they are often women and racialized residents.
6. The proposed relocation and elimination of bus stops will make it harder for seniors and people with disabilities to access community centres and other Park Board facilities.
7. The planned fare increase of 2.3% to take effect on July 1, 2021 will undermine the goal of increasing ridership and improving equity on transit.
8. Vancouver City Council passed a similar motion on April 14, 2021.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair inform TransLink that the Board of Parks and Recreation recommends TransLink consult with seniors and disability groups, neighbourhood houses, community centres, women's groups, and the unions of workers who depend on buses before cutting the number of bus stops, or any other transit related services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair inform TransLink that the Board of Parks and Recreation does not support bus fare increases.

CARRIED

(Commissioners Barker and Coupar opposed)