



**Borough Mayor and  
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BY E-MAIL

April 27, 2020

Mike Hurley  
Mayor  
City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Hurley,

I write to seek your help for an important public transit matter. COVID-19 has precipitated a massive loss in public transit ridership with an accompanying catastrophic decline in revenues for transit operators.

Here in our own city the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain revealed that the four transit operators in the Greater Montreal area have lost \$90 million collectively in revenues since early March due to ridership decline.

Mayors in the Greater Vancouver area went public recently to indicate that Translink, the local transporter, would have to massively cut services and may have to shut down by June because of a lack of liquidity. My understanding is that Translink has indeed laid off 1500 people and cut 18 bus lines entirely.

Toronto's TTC has announced a weekly loss of between \$18 and \$20 million. A few days ago Toronto's TTC laid off 1200 transit workers and reduced services.

With transit agencies large and small coast to coast losing huge amounts of revenues and some on the verge of closing, the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) is seeking municipal motions of support for its request for federal funding to stabilize public transport until the end of the crisis.

Whereas CUTA estimates as many as 40 per cent of systems may require bridge funding over the coming months requiring some \$1.2 billion to help them keep the buses and trains running;

Whereas CUTA is seeking \$400 million a month to keep services running as fare box and other revenue drop by up to 100 per cent;

Whereas CUTA notes that it will likely take some time for transit operators to rebuilt ridership to February 2020 levels during a gradually return to more normal economic activity;

Whereas without a quick infusion of funds by the Government of Canada it is impossible to assure that the gains made over the past decade in growing the modal share of all rides taken via collective transit will not be lost;

Whereas while transit is a provincial jurisdiction, only the Government of Canada has the budgetary capacity to stabilize public transit during the COVID-19 emergency;

It is proposed by

Seconded by

That Burnaby City Council endorse CUTA's request to the Government of Canada for emergency funding to provide immediate liquidity to transit operators and on-going funding to alleviate revenue loss as ridership rebuilds;

That a copy of this motion be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Transport of Canada and the Minister of Finance of Canada.

You can consult CUTA's request through this link:

<https://cutaactu.ca/en/news-media/latest-news/public-transit-needs-federal-support-now>

CUTA seeks an immediate \$1.2 billion to stabilize transit and then an injection of \$400 million per month until ridership rebuilds to again attain its February 2020 level. Transit experts predict it could take years to rebuild ridership - that work from home, online shopping and fear of being with others in collective transport will see transit ridership depressed for at least the medium term.

Without funding now, we will lose all the gains of the past decades in terms of modal shift to sustainable transit. Windsor Transit serving greater Windsor, Ontario recently shut down for at least 3 weeks due to its revenue shortfall. We can't assume the same won't happen soon to other transit agencies affecting short term service as well as long term capacity to serve the public.

Below please find attached a suggested text for a motion for your Council to adopt.

If your municipality does adopt such a motion, please send a copy to Marco D'Angelo, the CEO of CUTA through the following email [DAngelo@cutaactu.ca](mailto:DAngelo@cutaactu.ca).

Permit me to thank you for your consideration.



Marvin Rotrand  
City Councillor - Snowdon  
Ville de Montreal  
514 774 1073

**DECLARATION TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO PROVIDE URGENT FUNDING TO ASSURE THE VIABILITY OF PUBLIC TRANSIT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND TO AID TRANSIT OPERATORS REBUILD RIDERSHIP**

Whereas the situation of an unprecedented drop in public transit ridership provoked by the COVID-19 outbreak accompanied by massive revenue losses is affecting public transit agencies right across Canada putting in jeopardy their financial viability and future ability to operate;

Whereas the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) Canada's largest public transport lobby, the membership of which includes most Canadian transit agencies, has called for urgent emergency funding to address the immediate liquidity issues of transit operators while providing financial stability while ridership rebuilds;