

Deborah Liske

Subject: FW: Letter Mayor Helps - Climate Action Through Transit Ridership
Attachments: image001.gif; ATT00001.htm; image002.png; ATT00002.htm; image003.gif; ATT00003.htm; image004.gif; ATT00004.htm; image005.gif; ATT00005.htm; 2019-04-29 VRTC - Climate Action Through Transit Ridership.pdf; ATT00006.htm; 2019-04-29 CRD Mayor and Councils - Climate Action Through Transit Ridership.pdf; ATT00007.htm

From: Richard Elliott <RElliott@victoria.ca>
Date: April 29, 2019 at 9:39:29 AM PDT
To: Richard Elliott <RElliott@victoria.ca>
Cc: Colleen Mycroft <cmycroft@victoria.ca>
Subject: Letter Mayor Helps - Climate Action Through Transit Ridership

Good day Mayor and Council,

Please find attached two letters from Mayor Lisa Helps. Have a lovely day.

Kindly,
Rich

Rich Elliott
Executive Assistant
Mayor's Office
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0200 F 250.361.0248

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	

RECEIVED: APR 30 2019		
Referred: <i>Anja</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC



April 29, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Victoria City Council, I am requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support for climate action through the expansion of public transit ridership. This is a big, bold vision. We don't know how it will be achieved but we do hope that by working together we can come up with some creative approaches to financing fare replacement and service expansion that will be sustainable in the long term. We look forward to working with you on this exciting proposal.

At its April 25, 2019 meeting, Victoria City Council approved the following resolution:

Resolution: Climate Action through a Major Expansion of Public Transit Ridership

WHEREAS local governments in the Capital Region have declared a climate emergency, pledging to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 to avoid the worst consequences of global warming;

AND WHEREAS emissions from transportation generate the majority of community-based emissions within the region, meaning that switching from private vehicles to public transit has the potential to make a very large impact in achieving carbon neutrality;

AND WHEREAS forward-looking jurisdictions around the world from Kingston, Ontario to Luxembourg and Estonia are eliminating user-fee barriers to public transit ridership, with public transit services paid through the tax system rather than at the fare box.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria calls on the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and BC Transit to:

1. Embrace determined climate leadership through a major expansion of public transit ridership in the Capital Region, focused on the phasing out of user fees and a substantial improvement in service levels and fleet electrification.
2. Begin implementing this climate-action policy with a pilot programme in the 2020 budget eliminating user fees for people 18 years of age and younger, replacing revenues currently generated through fares with adjustments to provincial transfers and the property tax requisition.

.../2

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

3. Develop an implementation plan for a pilot programme to eliminate user fees for all riders within the Capital Region as a form of climate action, including enhanced service levels, enhanced transit priority including an extensive network of bus lanes, and fleet expansion to meet increased demand, in conjunction with fleet electrification.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc. Victoria Regional Transit Commission
Mayor and Councils in the Capital Regional District



April 29, 2019

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Helps'.

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc. Mayor and Councils in the Capital Regional District