

**DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**
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September 29, 2023

Dear Mayor Sim and Vancouver City Councillors:

I'm writing on behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (Downtown Van) to express our support for Councillor Kirby-Yung's October 4th motion, "Advancing Rapid Transit and Priority RapidBus Upgrade Projects in Vancouver to Support Complete Communities, Livability and Growth" as outlined in motion A.2.

Successful implementation of the *Access for Everyone Plan* will put Vancouver in a position to adequately expand the city's transit system and promote healthy and sustainable growth. Downtown benefits from being well-connected to the rest of the city and region through TransLink's service. But as our city continues to grow, so must our transit system.

Downtown Van is encouraged by what is proposed in Councillor Kirby-Yung's motion. The High Congestion/High Ridership Bus Corridors identified in this motion are critical to connecting downtown to the rest of Vancouver. Particularly, these corridors serve the daily commuters of downtown every day. Downtown Van businesses have struggled as workplace visits are still not reaching pre-pandemic levels. As downtown employees continue to gradually return to more regular in-office work, it is important that the reliability, convenience and comfort of their commutes be improved. This is particularly the case in corridors that serve residents in areas with less access to the faster, more convenient SkyTrain system.

Our region's transit network is one of the highest-performing networks in North America and is an exception to the typical narrative of historically car-dependent West Coast cities being unable to shift away from private vehicles. This has been made possible because of continued investment in progressive and equitable transit infrastructure. Downtown Van hopes this motion passes so we can continue building out a complete transit network that serves all communities. Our organization is eager to support City Council and city staff in any way possible to execute the *Access for Everyone Plan*. If you have any questions about our support of this motion, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Talbot".

JANE TALBOT
President + CEO, Downtown Van
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