



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
NEWS RELEASE

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For further information, contact:
David Pollock at 604-467-7359
dpollock@mapleridge.ca

Council Unanimously Supports Request for Emergency Transit Funding

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, April 28, Maple Ridge Council passed a resolution in support of a national request for \$1.2 billion in emergency transit funding by the Canadian Urban Transit Association.

“After years of transit development to meet the needs of our fast growing community, now at 90,000 people and home to one of eight regional town centres, these service cuts during a health emergency when there’s more than enough stress are devastating,” said Mayor Morden.

We encourage all impacted to support the effort for emergency relief funding and to please write to the Prime Minister, your MP and MLAs.

The following is the resolution passed by Council:

WHEREAS the situation of an unprecedented drop in public transit ridership provoked by the COVID19 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;

AND 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;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated that nationally 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, up to \$400 million a month to keep services running as fare box and other revenues drop by up to 100 per cent;

AND WHEREAS it is noted that it will likely take some time for transit operators to rebuild ridership to February 2020 levels during a gradual return to more normal economic activity and 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;

AND 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 recommended: THAT the request to the Government of Canada through CUTA for emergency funding to provide immediate liquidity to transit operators and on-going funding to alleviate revenue loss as ridership rebuilds be endorsed by the City of Maple Ridge Council; and further

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.