



450 Highbury Avenue N.,
London, Ontario, N5W 5L2
Telephone: 519-451-1340
Fax: 519-451-4411

September 1, 2015

Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London ON N6A 4L9

Dear Chair and Members of the Civic Works Committee:

Re: CUTA Federal Election Initiative

The Commission, at its August 26, 2015 meeting, confirmed its support of the Federal Election Initiative developed by the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) to ensure federal parties and local candidates make known their positions on transit in their communities; and requested the administration forward a request to Municipal Council via the Civic Works Committee requesting:

Municipal Council endorse the CUTA Federal Election Initiative to Urge the Federal Parties and Candidates of their Platforms to meet Canada's Public Transit Needs of the Future as set out in Enclosure I.

CUTA represents transit systems across Canada with respect to federal issues as they pertain to public transit. In 2012, the Commission and Municipal Council endorsed the Transit Vision 2040 Strategy (2040 Strategy), which recognized that national transit ridership and investment were both currently at all-time highs, and transit is widely recognized as an important part of the solution to national challenges including economic prosperity, climate change, public health, safety and security. The 2040 Strategy grouped the required actions into six key themes that collectively will ensure the broad goals of the 2040 Strategy are achieved, the themes include:

1. Putting transit at the Centre of Communities
2. Revolutionize service
3. Focusing on customers
4. Greening transit
5. Ensuring financial health
6. Strengthening knowledge and practice

With respect to the 5th theme (Ensuring financial health), CUTA, through its Transit Board Members Committee (TBMC), comprised of Municipal elected officials, is making efforts to ensure transit is an important electoral issue in the upcoming federal election. TBMC has created a motion, to be adopted by city councils across Canada, which urges the federal parties and local candidates to make known their positions on transit in their communities. To date, the cities of Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Saskatoon, St-Albert have adopted the motion and survey.

The direction that CUTA is encouraging members to take with respect to the upcoming federal election, including the attached motion and questionnaire (Enclosure I), are consistent with the approach currently underway by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Yours truly,



Kelly S. Paleczny
General Manager

Enclosure

I – CUTA Motion to Urge the Federal Parties and Candidates of their Platforms to meet Canada's Public Transit Needs of the Future



MOTION TO URGE THE FEDERAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR PLATFORMS TO MEET CANADA'S PUBLIC TRANSIT NEEDS OF THE FUTURE

Whereas the Canadian Urban Transit Association has expressed concerns about a transit infrastructure gap in Canada;

Whereas Canada's public transit needs of the future require long-term, dedicated, indexed and recurrent funding;

Whereas Canada's economic competitiveness as well as the quality of life of its citizens is improved with renewed accessible transit infrastructure.

Whereas rapid urbanization and the phenomenon of congestion that has accompanied it can only be solved through promoting a modal shift from the automobile to public transit;

Whereas the expansion of public transit through new lines, additional frequency and adding capacity allows effective and efficient use of roadways by offering the public a transportation choice other than the automobile.

Whereas public transit reduces greenhouse gas emission and pollution;

Whereas municipalities have an inadequate tax revenue base to finance the full cost of transit infrastructure and operations;

Whereas in advance of the upcoming Federal election, the Canadian Urban Transit Association has circulated the attached survey to Federal parties and Leaders in order to properly inform the electorate about their respective positions on Canada's urban transit issues.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT THIS COUNCIL:

Declare that it support greater federal investment in public transit infrastructure commencing in the 2016 budget;

Request that funding models allow flexibility to meet the different realities of cities, towns and collectivities across Canada.

Urge the federal parties to make public transit a major electoral issue by advising the public as to each party's plan for transit over the coming months.

Endorse the attached transit survey by adding the municipality's name to the list of signatories that will be sent to all federal parties.

Send a copy of the survey to all federal candidates running within the municipality to gauge their opinions on public transit for Canadian communities.

Continue to support a federal role in public transit across Canada and promote the many benefits of public transit for Canadians.



2015 Transit Survey:

Canadians go to the polls October 19 to elect their 42nd Parliament. The Canadian Urban Transit Association has expressed concerns regarding Canada's substantial transit infrastructure funding gap which threatens both our country's economic competitiveness and our citizens' quality of life.

With insufficient public transit infrastructure, Canadian cities suffer both from a loss of productivity, through congestion, and environmentally, through increased greenhouse gas emissions. A plan is required to meet the transit needs of today and for the future if Canada hopes to develop modern and efficient cities.

Accordingly:

- 1. Does your party, or you as an individual candidate, support dedicated transit funding for Canadian municipalities?**
- 2. Would your party, or you as an individual candidate, require a specific model, like the Public-Private Partnership (P3) model, as eligibility criteria for transit funding? Are there any other alternative funding or financing tools that your party believes are effective methods of funding urban transit?**
- 3. Would your party, or you as an individual candidate, index transit funding to take inflation into account?**
- 4. Is maintaining a state-of-good repair for our transit infrastructure a priority for your party, or you as an individual candidate?**
- 5. Will your party, or you as an individual candidate, support Canada's growing transit manufacturing as well as Research and Development industries? How would you do so?**