



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**Subject: COUNCIL MOTION – NATIONAL TRANSIT STRATEGY**

On August 11, 2015, Councillor Brodhead provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 that he intended to bring forward the following motion:

*In order for Council to debate the motion, the motion must be formally moved.*

(Councillor Brodhead)

“That Councillor Brodhead be permitted on behalf of St. Albert City Council to work with CUTA (Canadian Urban Transit Association) to raise the need for federal policy and funding support for municipal transit infrastructure during the current federal election. And that the candidate survey supporting motion and related advocacy matters (Attachment 1 to the “Council Motion” agenda report dated August 24, 2015) be approved by Council.”

**Attachments:**

1. Candidate survey supporting motion and related advocacy matters

Originating Department(s):	Legislative Services
Author(s):	L. Kuprys, Legislative Officer
City Manager Signature:	Date:

The objective of this motion and survey noted below is to have city councils across Canada pledge their support for a federal role in urban transit while simultaneously putting local federal candidates' position vis-à-vis transit on record.

**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?**

**MOTION TO URGE THE FEDERAL PARTIS 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.*