HALIFAX

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Item No. 7.2.4

Request for Council's Consideration

X	**Included on Agenda** (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday one week prior to meeting)

Date of Council Meeting: April 28, 2020

Subject: Public Transit – Emergency Funding

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Regional Council make a statement supporting the Canadian Urban Transit Association's (CUTA) request to the federal government for emergency funding due to COVID-19 expenses as follows:

1) $400 million a month in revenue relief to keep services running as farebox and other revenue drops by up to 100 percent.
2) A fund to help systems maintain liquidity in the period before revenue relief can arrive. CUTA estimates as many as 40 percent of systems may require bridge funding over the coming months. The association hopes these systems can access $1.2 billion to help them keep the buses and trains running.
3) Support to cover costs of disinfectants and protective equipment for employees.

Reason:

As ridership plummets and cleaning costs to protect passengers and employees soar, the public transit sector is seeking immediate federal relief. To get essential workers to work and help people do things essential to day-to-day life, public transit needs federal support. To maintain physical distance between transit operators and passengers, many systems are forgoing fare collection altogether. Another growing issue is the availability of disinfectants and protective equipment for employees. Consultations with CUTA members reveal more than 70 percent reported difficulty securing cleaning supplies and protective gear. It is also seeking federal support to cover these costs. CUTA is also asking that transit be added to a priority list of sectors receiving these products in the event their supply is restricted in an emergency.

Outcome Sought:

Regional Council's statement supporting CUTA's request for federal government emergency funding.

Councillor Lorelei Nicoll	*District 4*