EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Minute No. 18
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has recently made a unprecedented cut to Winnipeg Transit Funding at the exact same time as they announced their commitment to greenhouse gas reductions and the importance of 'A Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan';

AND WHEREAS the decision to reduce operating funding support for Winnipeg Transit runs contrary to their stated goals in their new climate and green plan, and the implication for Winnipeg Transit is not positive, as outlined in the Over-Expenditure Authorization for the Transit Department's 2017 Operating Budget Report to the Finance Committee on September 15, 2017, as was then sent to Council on September 27, 2017, namely:

"Provincial Operating Grant
The City and the Province of Manitoba have historically had a Transit Funding Agreement in which the Province of Manitoba funded 50% of the eligible net operating costs of the Transit System. The 2017 operating budget for Transit was prepared in this manner with the total budgeted operating grant estimated at $48.246 million.

During 2017, the Province announced that City funding would be held at the 2016 level and the 50/50 funding partnership for Transit no longer applied. Transit's 2016 operating grant claim to the Province of Manitoba was $40.1 million. Therefore, the amount of the grant available to Transit for 2017 from the City basket of provincial funding has been set at $40.1 million, leaving a deficit of $8.146 million for this revenue source.

The budgetary shortfall resulting from the change to the Provincial Operating Grant for Transit will persist in future years. As such, sustainable measures such as reductions to public transit service and additional fare increases will need to be contemplated going forward."

AND WHEREAS the reduction in funding between the historic level of 50/50 funding for the Transit Departments' operating budget will only increase in time, as the funding shortall between the real costs of operating of the transit department and the provincial government's decision to end 50/50 partnership funding will ever increase the gap between the funding levels of the City of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS this funding cut by the Province of Manitoba will have a negative impact on Winnipeg Transit services at a time when a strong public transit system has never been more important for our environment;

Executive Policy Committee – Motions (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Winnipeg City Council now call on the Province of Manitoba to immediately restore their 50/50 partnership funding of Winnipeg Transit's operating costs.

Required to Stand as Notice of Motion
In accordance with Rule 17.1 of the
Procedure By-law