Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 16, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 11 Transit Funding

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of December 14, 2023, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,
That the Council Motion of December 14, 2023, be received as information, and forwarded to Council.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On December 14, 2023, Council referred the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS an equitable and sustainable public transit system is crucial for the well-being and economic vitality of the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the current funding model for transit, established via the leadership and vision of a previous New Democratic Provincial government, was unfortunately abandoned by the last provincial government, and has therefore shifted the burden disproportionately onto the City of Winnipeg, adversely affecting the quality and accessibility of our public transit services;

AND WHEREAS a return to a 50-50 funding model, as established by a previous New Democratic government would distribute the operating costs equally between the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS this would foster a collaborative approach to enhancing public transit in the City of Winnipeg and directly assist the City of Winnipeg in addressing its responsibilities pertaining to Climate Change;

AND WHEREAS the 50/50 funding model provides the City of Winnipeg with a long-term, predictable funding source, so as to ensure stable, efficient and frequent public transit services to the citizens of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the Amalgamated Transit Union plays an important role in developing and supporting our transit operators who are the backbone of our public transit system;

AND WHEREAS with the newly elected provincial government, the timing of a request to restore the historic and vital 50/50 funding model for Winnipeg Transit, would reverse the unfortunate decision by the previous provincial government, in 2017, whereby the previous provincial government informed the City of Winnipeg, via a new policy directive, that they were immediately discontinuing the historic and vital 50/50 model;

AND WHEREAS the 2017 decision by the previous provincial government has directly affected the City of Winnipeg's ability to deliver public transit, both in terms of maintaining the existing core service, and its ability to plan for the future to address the needs of a growing city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg request the Province of Manitoba to restore the historic and vital 50/50 transit operating budget funding model.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in light of the financial challenges faced by the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg indicate as well to the province, that we will entertain a phased-in approach, to assist the Province of Manitoba with the restoration of the said historic and vital 50/50 funding model.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg will work with the Province of Manitoba to preserve and enhance the Province of Manitoba's 'branding' on all of our transit infrastructure, including buses, so as to ensure the Province of Manitoba is rightfully and properly recognized for said 50/50 funding.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.