



Report Number: EC2022-0363

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2022 March 15

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Encouraging Sustainable Multi-modal Travel by Piloting the Removal of Time-based Restrictions of Bicycles on Calgary's LRT Network

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Wyness

WHEREAS The City of Calgary is committed to providing Calgarians with a greater range of convenient transportation choices, in particular by increasing the attractiveness of sustainable travel modes such as walking, wheeling, and transit;

AND WHEREAS Council has declared a Climate Emergency, further emphasizing the urgent need to, among other things, shift travel patterns in favour of low-carbon travel modes such as cycling and transit;

AND WHEREAS The City of Calgary's 2011 Cycling Strategy identified the introduction of amenities such as bicycle racks and lockers at LRT stations as priority actions to encourage multi-modal travel;

AND WHEREAS Section 14.1(2) of Calgary Transit Bylaw 4M81 prohibits the presence of bicycles (with the exception of folding bicycles) on LRT stations, platforms, and train cars on weekdays between 6:30am and 9:00am and between 3:00pm and 6:00pm, and further requires that bicycles only be placed in ways that do not obstruct customer access and train operation (e.g. not obstruct the vehicle operator's access door);

AND WHEREAS the rationale for the above time-based restrictions is to ensure adequate space for transit riders, ensure predictable train departures (i.e. reliable arrivals at upstream stations), and promote positive customer interactions during peak weekday commuting periods;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent public health measures have resulted in substantial transit ridership reductions in general and in particular during previous peak commuting hours;

AND WHEREAS Administration projects that ridership will return to 65-75% of pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2022, and summer months feature fewer post-secondary and K-12 student commuter trips, providing an opportunity to pilot the removal of time-based restrictions of bicycles on Calgary's LRT network during a time of lower than typical ridership;

AND WHEREAS many urban transit systems in Canada appear to be moving away from time-based bicycle restrictions on LRT networks by piloting the removal of time-based bicycle restrictions on existing LRT systems (Edmonton Transit Service), and/or through the design of new systems (Canada Line in Vancouver, ION in Waterloo Region, Confederation Line in Ottawa);

AND WHEREAS 13% of transit riders participating in Calgary Transit's 2015 Accessing LRT Survey reported that they were prevented from using their ideal method of traveling to LRT stations due to pedestrian/cycling related challenges;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to:

1. Implement a temporary pilot program to allow bicycles on CTrains at all hours of operation, to begin May 1, 2022 at the earliest and to terminate by September 2022 on a date to be determined by Administration.
2. Promote the above pilot program to raise awareness among Calgarians; and
3. Evaluate the above pilot program and report back to Council through the Infrastructure and Planning Committee with any recommendations including, but not limited to, potential bylaw amendments, by no later than Q4 2023.