



Report Number: PFC2021-1142

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2021 July 20

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Further Endorsing a Passenger Rail Line Between YYC International Airport, Downtown Calgary and Banff, Alberta

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Jeff Davison, Ward Sutherland, Gian-Carlo Carra

WHEREAS on 15 July 2021, Invest Alberta Corporation (Invest Alberta), the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Transportation (Alberta Transportation) and the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) announced a detailed Memorandum of Understanding to continue to advance the Calgary-Banff Rail Passenger project;

AND WHEREAS on 14 December 2020, the City of Calgary Council supported the Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the "Bow Valley Corridor Alliance", an alliance of First Nations and municipalities along the proposed rail route from Calgary to Banff Town;

AND WHEREAS the City of Calgary Council endorsed the Downtown Strategy, which aims to invest in the physical spaces, buildings, and infrastructure to increase the number of downtown residents and visitors, and drive investment into our downtown

AND WHEREAS Calgary Economic Development has predicted the direct economic impact of a passenger rail line from Calgary to Banff on Calgary economy: an increase of visitor spending from \$1.3 billion to \$2.7 billion in 2027 (assuming moderate growth and an induced demand at 5 percent);

AND WHEREAS IN 2019, YYC International Airport saw a record 17.957 million passengers, which makes YYC International Airport one of Canada's busiest airports and a regional gateway for the entire region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council re-endorse the Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the "Bow Valley Corridor Alliance" from Calgary to Banff;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Council direct the Mayor to write a letter of support to the Premier, Minister of Transportation, and Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation highlighting its support for the project and endorsing a line from YYC International Airport, a stop in Downtown Calgary, and line to the Banff townsite;

AND FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct the City Manager and Downtown Strategy team to engage the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation and Calgary Planning Department to assess the feasibility of a downtown stop.