



Youth en Route

We champion active transportation to school and beyond

March 15, 2022

Dear Councillor;

I'm writing to encourage your support of Councillor Wyness's motion to study the removal of time of day limitations to bring bikes on C-trains. We have been advocating for this because, unlike working Calgarians, students don't have the option to choose a flexible start and end time to their days.

This measure will support Youth en Route's goals to get more students out of personal cars and able to consider transit and active modes of travel to get to school. We have surveyed students at eight large Calgary High Schools, and overwhelmingly students tell us that time and convenience impact their travel choices. And that means they arrive at school in a car. We must make other modes easier for them.

- Lester Pearson HS: 54 % arrive in car
- Bishop O Byrne: 40% arrive in a car
- Dr EP Scarlett 49 % arrive in a car
- Crescent Heights: 33 % arrive in a car

At some schools, many students take well over an hour to get to school. At Crescent Heights, where 55% of students arrive by Calgary Transit, 20% of trips to school are over 46 minutes.

We ask if students would consider bringing bikes on transit, and many are open to the concept. At Bishop O'Byrne, in deep South Calgary, 57% of students have a bike, and 38.2% of the 240 students surveyed said they'd like to be able to bring a bike on the train. At Crescent, where we had close to 400 survey responses, 28% of students said they'd consider bringing a bike on the train. (Bike ownership at Crescent is lower, at 55%)

It is unfortunate that the summer study will not capture data from high school students because they are off. However, we'd encourage you to extend into September, or even simply allow registered high school students the opportunity to bring their bike on train anytime, knowing that very often these students are going against the main flow of passengers.

As you examine data and consider the future of the program, I'd also get you to consider removing fees for any CBE or CCSD registered High School student. An \$80 bus pass is beyond the reach of many families. To qualify for a low income passes, students must get a letter from a principal. That's onerous for many youth and they simply go without.

At Bishop O'Byrne, which is adjacent to a train station. We asked if they would use Calgary Transit more frequently if they didn't have to pay for it. 49% said they would use it more frequently and another 12% said they don't take Transit now, but would like to. We also had some heartbreaking comments when we asked open ended questions about personal safety. " No more officers pls. If they do this tons of students wont be able to go to school through trains because their parents wont/cant pay for their ticket" .

If you'd like any more details from our surveys, or more information, I'm happy to share at any time.

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