

2. Motion to Request Federal Funding to Offset the Operating Deficit of OC Transpo Resulting from the Work-From-Home Model

Motion visant à demander des fonds fédéraux pour compenser le déficit d'exploitation d'OC Transpo créé par le recours au télétravail

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve:

- 1. That the Mayor write to the Federal Minister of Finance, the President of the Treasury Board and Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, as well as all Members of Parliament in the National Capital Region, requesting that the federal government provide funding to offset the operating deficit of OC Transpo, as a result of the decision to maintain the work-from-home model past 2022; and**
- 2. That as part of the outreach by the Mayor, an additional request be made that the federal commitment to provide public transit agencies with funding for operating budgets by 2026 be expedited.**

RECOMMANDATION DE LA COMMISSION

Que le Conseil approuve :

- 1. Que le maire écrive à la ministre des Finances fédérale, à la présidente du Conseil du Trésor, au ministre de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique fédéral ainsi qu'aux députés de la région de la capitale nationale afin de demander un financement fédéral pour compenser le déficit d'exploitation d'OC Transpo résultant de la décision de maintenir le télétravail en 2022;**
- 2. Que dans son message, le maire demande aussi au fédéral d'accélérer son engagement à verser du financement aux agences de transport en commun pour leurs budgets de fonctionnement d'ici 2026.**

Documentation/Documentation

1. Transit Commission Report, dated March 30, 2022
(ACS2022-OCC-GEN-0015)

Rapport de la Commission du transport en commun, daté le 30 mars 2022
(ACS2022-OCC-GEN-0015)

2. Extract of draft Minutes, Transit Commission, 30 March 2022

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Commission du transport en
commun, le 30 mars 2022

**Subject: Motion to Request Federal Funding to Offset the Operating Deficit of
OC Transpo Resulting from the Work-From-Home Model**

File Number: ACS2022-OCC-GEN-0015

Report to Council on 13 April 2022

Submitted on March 30, 2022 by the Transit Commission

Contact Person: Eric Pelot, committee coordinator

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Ward: Citywide

**Objet : Motion visant à demander des fonds fédéraux pour compenser le
déficit d'exploitation d'OC Transpo créé par le recours au télétravail**

Dossier : ACS2022-OCC-GEN-0015

Rapport au Conseil le 13 avril 2022

Soumis le 30 mars 2022 par la Commission du transport en commun

Personne ressource : Eric Pelot, coordonnateur de comité

eric.pelot@ottawa.ca, (613) 580-2424, p. 22953

Quartier : À l'échelle de la ville

REPORT RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council approve:

- 1. That the Mayor write to the Federal Minister of Finance, the President of the Treasury Board and Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, as well as all Members of Parliament in the National Capital Region, requesting that the federal government provide funding to offset the operating deficit of OC Transpo, as a result of the decision to maintain the work-from-home model past 2022; and**

2. **That as part of the outreach by the Mayor, an additional request be made that the federal commitment to provide public transit agencies with funding for operating budgets by 2026 be expedited.**

RECOMMANDATION(S) DU RAPPORT

Que le Conseil approuve :

1. **Que le maire écrive à la ministre des Finances fédérale, à la présidente du Conseil du Trésor, au ministre de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique fédéral ainsi qu'aux députés de la région de la capitale nationale afin de demander un financement fédéral pour compenser le déficit d'exploitation d'OC Transpo résultant de la décision de maintenir le télétravail en 2022;**
2. **Que dans son message, le maire demande aussi au fédéral d'accélérer son engagement à verser du financement aux agences de transport en commun pour leurs budgets de fonctionnement d'ici 2026.**

BACKGROUND

On December 8, 2021, the following Motion (No 62/18) was moved by Councillor R. Brockington and seconded by Councillor C. A. Meehan at Ottawa City Council:

WHEREAS, the public transit ridership level in 2019 for OC Transpo was 97.4 million trips; and

WHEREAS, the estimated public transit ridership level in 2021 for OC Transpo will be between 31 and 33 million trips; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget deficit for OC Transpo, before provincial and federal government bail-out funding was \$124 million; and

WHEREAS, when a State of Emergency was declared on March 17, 2020, the vast majority of local, federal public servants were required to work from home; and

WHEREAS, federal public servants represent a large cohort of public transit passengers and by not commuting to their respective offices, OC Transpo has not realized millions of dollars in fare revenue; and

WHEREAS, given that Ottawa is the Nation’s Capital and home to most of the federal government office personnel, OC Transpo has been disproportionately impacted due to the federal government’s decision to keep their workers at home, compared to other Canadian public transit systems;

THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED THAT the Mayor write to the Federal Minister of Finance, the President of the Treasury Board and Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, as well as all Members of Parliament in the National Capital Region, requesting that the federal government provide funding to offset the operating deficit of OC Transpo, as a result of the decision to maintain the work-from-home model.

Council then referred the motion to Transit Commission. The following regular Transit Commission meeting was held on March 30, 2022, at which this motion was considered.

DISCUSSION

Transit Commission carried the following replacement motion, and the motion is now before Council for its consideration:

WHEREAS, the public transit ridership level in 2019 for OC Transpo was 97.4 million trips; and

WHEREAS, the estimated public transit ridership level in 2021 for OC Transpo will be between 31 and 33 million trips; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 budget deficit for OC Transpo, before provincial and federal government bail-out funding was \$124 million; and

WHEREAS, when a State of Emergency was declared on March 17, 2020, the vast majority of local, federal public servants were required to work from home; and

WHEREAS, federal public servants represent a large cohort of public transit passengers and by not commuting to their respective offices, OC Transpo has not realized millions of dollars in fare revenue; and

WHEREAS, given that Ottawa is the Nation’s Capital and home to most of the federal government office personnel, OC Transpo has been disproportionately impacted due to the federal government’s decision to keep their workers at home, compared to other Canadian public transit systems; and

Whereas, the federal government has announced one-time funding of \$750 million in 2022 to cover operating budget deficits for public transit agencies, across Canada (details pending);

THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED THAT the Mayor write to the Federal Minister of Finance, the President of the Treasury Board and Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, as well as all Members of Parliament in the National Capital Region, requesting that the federal government provide funding to offset the operating deficit of OC Transpo, as a result of the decision to maintain the work-from-home model past 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as part of the outreach by the Mayor, an additional request be made that the federal commitment to provide public transit agencies with funding for operating budgets by 2026 be expedited.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with the recommendations in this report. However, there could be financial implications should the Government of Canada not provide sufficient funding to offset the forecasted operating deficit. OC Transpo ridership reduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While 2022 ridership is increasing, the rate of recovery is slower in comparison to other comparable Canadian transit authorities. Pre-pandemic, the federal public service represented a significant cohort of OC Transpo passengers. Ridership recovery rates in Ottawa have been disproportionately impacted due to the high number of office workers, many of them federal public servants, continuing to work from home.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services is aware of the report and will be available to answer any questions at Council.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This report is City-wide in nature.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

This report was drafted to transmit the Motion approved at Commission to Council; no Advisory Committees were consulted in the preparation of this report.

CONSULTATION

This report was drafted to transmit the Motion approved at Commission to Council. The Transit Commission meeting on March 30, 2022 was open to the public. No delegations registered to speak for this item.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

This report was drafted to transmit the Motion approved at Commission to Council; no Accessibility Impacts have been identified. Staff will be available at Council if clarification is required.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This report was drafted to transmit the Motion approved at Commission to Council; no Risk Management Implications were identified in the preparation of this report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

This report was drafted to transmit the Motion approved at Commission to Council; no Rural Implications were identified in the preparation of this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This report was drafted to transmit the Motion approved at Commission to Council; no specific Term of Council Strategic Priorities have been identified. Staff will be available at the Council meeting to respond to questions, as necessary.

DISPOSITION

Staff will implement Council's decision(s), as directed.