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MOTION TO REQUEST FEDERAL FUNDING TO OFFSET THE  
OPERATING DEFICIT OF OC TRANSPO RESULTING FROM THE WORK-  
FROM-HOME MODEL

CITY WIDE

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*Referred from the City Council meeting of December 8, 2021.*

**CITY COUNCIL MOTION NO 67/16**

Moved by Councillor R. Brockington

Seconded by Councillor C. A. Meehan

**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.**

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Commissioner Sarah Wright-Gilbert declared an apparent or perceived conflict of interest as follows :

Councillor Brockington's Motion No. 67/16 - Motion to Request Federal Funding to Offset the Operating Deficit of OC Transpo Resulting from the Work-From-Home Model, Item 5 on Agenda 32 for consideration at the March 30, 2022, Transit Commission meeting.

I am a federal public servant. While I may not be in a conflict-of-interest situation with respect to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, my participation in the discussion/ debate and voting on this motion would put me in an apparent conflict of interest according to the *Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector*, specifically sections 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4:

- 3.1 Acting at all times with integrity and in a manner that will bear the closest public scrutiny, an obligation that may not be fully satisfied by simply acting within the law.
- 3.3 Taking all possible steps to prevent and resolve any real, apparent or potential conflicts of interest between their official responsibilities and their private affairs in favour of the public interest.
- 3.4 Acting in such a way as to maintain their employer's trust.

As a result, I feel it would be inappropriate for me to participate in the discussion/ debate and vote on this motion.

Commissioner Wright-Gilbert did not participate in discussion and did not vote on this item.

Councillor R. Brockington introduced the following replacement motion:

**Motion No. 2020 TTC 32-01**

Moved by Councillor R. Brockington

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council Motion No. 67/16, referred to Transit Commission from the City Council meeting of December 8, 2021, be replaced with the following amended motion:***

**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.**

Wendy Stephanson, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Services Department, was in attendance and answered questions from Commission.

The Chair asked the Office of the City Clerk to report back prior to Council on whether Councillor Brockington's motion would impact or conflict with Transit Commission Motion No. 2021 TTC 30-06, approved by Council on December 8, 2021 as part of the transit budget for 2022.

The motion CARRIED AS AMENDED.