

## UBC Students Seeking Rapid Transit Score a Win

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vancouver, BC—The Alma Mater Society of University of British Columbia Vancouver (AMS) has achieved a significant win in their [campaign](#) for rapid transit down the Broadway Corridor to UBC.

The Metro Vancouver board today approved a [set of amendments](#) to section 5.1 of their [Regional Growth Strategy](#). As AMS President Bijan Ahmadian outlined this morning in a speech to the board, the amendments address the AMS's concerns that Metro was exceeding its planning and governance authority and trying to force TransLink's hand.

Last Friday, Ahmadian spoke to the Metro Vancouver Regional Planning Committee. "Our request is simple," he said. "We are asking Metro Vancouver to clearly and explicitly define rapid transit down the Broadway Corridor – all the way to UBC – as an equal priority to rapid transit south of the Fraser. Not above, just equal."

Ahmadian also expressed concern with the scope of Metro's recommendations. "Last week's version of the Regional Growth Strategy looked like an attempt to paint TransLink's planning processes into a political corner with a bylaw that exceeded Metro Vancouver's governance and planning authority."

According to Ahmadian, "this morning's amendments provide important clarification of the roles of Metro Vancouver, TransLink, the Mayor's Council, and the Regional Transportation Commission. They are a very reassuring response to our concerns."

"It took a lot of integrity for Metro Vancouver to do the right thing today, and they deserve congratulations for that. This is a victory for students, a victory for good governance, and a victory for the future of the region," said Ahmadian.

However, the AMS's concern about Metro's transit prioritization remains unaddressed in the latest draft of the Regional Growth Strategy. Rapid transit between Arbutus and UBC has still been relegated to the back of the line.

"The AMS will still keep pushing because these amendments still don't mean that we'll get rapid transit down the Broadway Corridor to UBC any time soon. The UBC Line is an important part of a comprehensive transit network for the region – as are the Evergreen Line and Surrey rapid transit. Improving transit is a valuable investment in the future. We hope that Metro Mayors and the Province will demonstrate leadership and vision by collaborating on a realistic and sustainable long-term funding model."

UBC students will be outspoken in the upcoming Regional Growth Strategy Public hearings, and the AMS will continue lobbying TransLink and the Province to build rapid transit down the Broadway Corridor all the way to UBC.

"UBC students need rapid transit now," said Ahmadian. "Not in 30, 40, 50 years or more. We won't keep waiting quietly."

## BACKGROUND:

Transit riders make more than 100 000 trips on the Broadway Corridor every day—more than the Canada Line or the Millennium Line. 44 000 of those trips go all the way to UBC. Every morning, 4 000 commuters are left behind by full 99 B-Line buses. UBC transit ridership is expected to grow by 10% every year.

UBC students have long been advocates of affordable, efficient transit and sustainable transportation. The Alma Mater Society was instrumental in the inception and adoption of the region-wide U-Pass. Aggressive transit advocacy by UBC and the AMS led to a doubling of UBC transit ridership in the last eight years. Trips to and from UBC by transit versus other kinds of transportation increased from 18 to 47 per cent. Studies show that U-Pass users continue to use transit after graduation.

## ABOUT THE AMS:

The Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver (AMS) represents over 46,000 UBC students as well as students at affiliated colleges. The mission statement of the AMS is “to improve the quality of the educational, social, and personal lives of the students of UBC”.

The AMS operates student services, student owned businesses, resource groups, and clubs. In addition to offering services to students, the AMS is an advocate of students’ issues and ensures the needs of students are presented to the University administration and the federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

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