

Policy Number: E-8
Title: Transit Advocacy

Passed: March 15, 2017
Expires:

Summary:

Directs the VP External to advocate for the expansion of public transportation

Number & Title:

E-8: Transit Advocacy

Effective Date/Expiry Date (if applicable):

March 15, 2017

Approval Date:

March 15, 2017

Policy Type:

External Policy

Review Date:

This policy shall be reviewed every one (1) year.

Responsible Body:

AMS Advocacy Committee

Authority:

AMS Code of Procedure Section II, article 11(1)

“Council may create external and internal policies as well as combined policies.”

Purpose and Goals:

This policy is designed to state the AMS’s stance on:

- 1) The expansion and improvement of public transportation in Greater Vancouver, including bus, SkyTrain and SeaBus, especially in regards to the movement of students to and from UBC’s Point Grey campus
- 2) Advocacy of the Vice President External’s office in relation to various forms of public transportation, excluding the Broadway Millennium Line extension

Applicability:

This policy is applicable to the AMS’s advocacy towards Translink, the City of Vancouver, the Metro Vancouver Mayors’ Council and any other concerned body.

Exclusions:

There are no exclusions for this policy.

Definitions:

Transit Priority Measures measures designed to minimize delays to buses and other forms of public transportation at intersections and along congested roads to provide faster commute times. These can include regulatory measures, transit signal priority or physical measures.

Policy:

Whereas over 60% of UBC students commute to the Point Grey campus using public transportation each day;

Whereas 52% of weekday trips to UBC’s Point Grey campus are made on public transportation;

Whereas transit networks in Greater Vancouver must be expanded in conjunction with growing population in order to ensure a sustainable and efficient public transportation system;

Whereas the Metro Vancouver Mayors’ Council has demonstrated a commitment to improving transportation networks in the Greater Vancouver region, including exploring the use of Transit Priority Measures;

Whereas Translink ridership data suggests routes to UBC carry the highest passenger volumes in the region;

Whereas public transit along the Broadway corridor continues to operate over capacity and no set timeline for Phase 2 of the Broadway Millennium Line Extension has been established as yet;

Whereas the SkyTrain and SeaBus are utilized by UBC students to access bus routes that directly service the Point Grey campus;

Therefore:

- 1) Be it resolved that Council direct the Vice President External to advocate for expansion and improvements to public transportation that will improve capacity, increase reliability and reduce travel times, especially on routes that feed directly to UBC but also with a view to transit in the region more generally;
- 2) Be it further resolved that the Vice President External support the creation of Transit Priority Measures that will reduce travel time on public transportation to UBC;
- 3) Be it further resolved that any temporary solutions along the Broadway Corridor should not replace a long-term, rapid transit solution on this route;
- 4) Be it further resolved that the Arbutus bus exchange planned for the terminus of Phase 1 is a temporary solution and that the Vice President External advocate for a design that will facilitate the most efficient commute for students traveling to and from the UBC campus.

Consultations:

The following groups have been consulted during the development of this policy:

AMS Policy Advisor, AMS External Affairs Research & U-Pass Commissioner, AMS Vice President External Affairs, AMS Associate Vice President External, AMS Advocacy Commission Chair, AMS Advocacy Committee.

History:

EP-2013-11 Short-term public transit solutions for the Broadway Corridor

Related Policies:

The AMS's stance on rapid transit on the Broadway Corridor is outlined in Policy E-7: Long-Term Solutions and Rapid Transit Advocacy.

Appendix/Appendices:

A briefing note titled "Transit Policy Report" accompanies this policy.