

June 30, 2021

Tony Gugliotta, Board Chair

TransLink
400 - 287 Nelson's Court
New Westminster, BC V3L 0E7
E: board@translink.ca

Dear Chair Gugliotta,

At the June 21, 2021 meeting, the Vancouver Board of Education passed the following motions regarding proposed changes to transit fares and bus stop locations:

That TransLink be informed that the Vancouver Board of Education does not support the fare increase for bus transportation effective 2021 July 1, and that,

TransLink be asked to reconsider the removal of bus stops which impact our students.

The Vancouver Board of Education does not support the fare increase TransLink is planning to implement on July 1, 2021. Recognizing the various positive attributes of public transportation and active travel generally, we are concerned that increasing fares will increase inequity of access to bus transportation services which could discourage students and staff from using public transportation within Vancouver.

Additionally, TransLink has removed some bus stops along route 2, and is considering removing select bus stops along routes 17 and 25. According to Transit Service Guidelines the rationale for removing bus stops on route 17 is that 77% of bus stops are too close together. Similarly, for route 25, 50% of bus stops are identified as being too close together. Information on the TransLink website indicates that the proposed changes will result in time savings, cost savings, and improved reliability of service.

Many VSB students, particularly those attending secondary schools, use transit to travel to and from schools. The District aims to reduce barriers to improve equitable access to schools. The Vancouver School Board is concerned that the potential benefit of reducing the number of stops is outweighed by potential negative impacts to students in the District. Specifically, we are concerned that reductions in bus stop locations will make it more challenging for some students who rely on transit to access their school of choice.

Board of Education Trustees:

Carmen Cho – Board Chair,
Estrellita Gonzalez – Vice-Chair,
Fraser Ballantyne, Lois Chan-Pedley,
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The public transportation network in Vancouver continues to provide exciting opportunities to serve our community equitably. With regards to the above motions, the Vancouver School Board encourages TransLink to reconsider the scheduled fare increases and proposed removal of bus stops due to the potential negative impacts on students and staff within Vancouver.

Best regards,



Carmen Cho
Board Chair

cc: Gigi Chen-Kuo, Interim Chief Executive Officer (c/o Christian Neubert, Assistant)
VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer