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Proposed increases to transit fares

1 message

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To: "Troster, Ariel" <Ariel.Troster@ottawa.ca>
Cc: Catherine Boucher <president@ottawadalhousie.ca>

Sat, Nov 23, 2024 at 10:19 AM

Dear Councillor Troster,

At this week's meeting of the Dalhousie Community Association's mobility committee we discussed the proposed increase in transit fares proposed in the draft 2025 city budget.

The committee supports your position on these increases, as expressed in your post on Instagram November 14, 2024.

While it is important that the city reverse its proposal to increase fares for seniors by significantly more than five per cent, it's also necessary to question why fares for children are being proposed, and to reverse this proposal as well. As you state, in the main, in Dalhousie, these radical increases will impose financial penalties on people who can least afford them.

It is reasonable to expect that fare increases will further discourage ridership among a public already disheartened by the loss of bus routes and a reduction in scheduled services. It was pointed out in our meeting that private ride services like Uber are the only alternative when the bus doesn't arrive on time. But for many in Dalhousie there is no alternative: private services are unaffordable.

The committee also discussed how reliable and affordable public transit contributes to a reduction in vehicle traffic and the associated greenhouse gas emissions in our neighbourhoods. An increase in transit fares, on the other hand, is likely to contribute to an increase in vehicle traffic in Dalhousie. This benefits no one (including drivers).

Sincerely,

Ed McKenna
DCA Mobility Committee