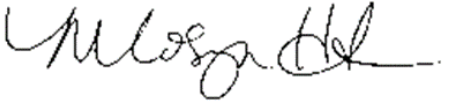




Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	August 14, 2024
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Public Transit Needs of Women in Canada (PW24048) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Maureen Cosyn Heath (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1860
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Maureen Cosyn Heath Director, Transit Division Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

N/A

## INFORMATION

Across Canada, most transit customers are women or persons who identify as women. However, transit planning and service design rarely takes customer profile factors such as gender into consideration during the design phase. This is a missed opportunity, for if a transit service is designed for the safety of women, then the overall safety of the service is improved for all vulnerable users and the whole of the customer base.

Given that perceptions of safety are an influencing factor determining whether people take public transit, taking tangible steps to improve system safety will yield positive results in ridership, revenue, and overall value to the community.

In January 2022, a research report was released, which was the first comprehensive review of the topic of women’s public transit use patterns and needs in Canada. Attached as Appendix “A” to Report PW24048 is a report entitled Understanding and Responding to the Public Transit Needs of Women in Canada. This body of work was produced by a team of researchers from the University of Alberta, Polytechnique

---

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Montréal and Leading Mobility. It reviewed current practices, including trip characteristics and discovered important ways in which the planning, design, and implementation of transit services are not always meeting the needs of women riders, as well as identifying strides transit agencies are making in gender-inclusive planning. This research was conducted using principles of academic research methodology, including an extensive literature review and a public policy review that included engagement with transit agencies to identify policy documents relevant to the subject matter.

The above group of researchers are entering into a second phase, with transit agency input, on developing gender-responsive planning programs and policies. This work will be undertaken by conducting extensive data analysis to develop insight into women's travel patterns and needs across Canadian transit systems. This will include engaging participating transit agencies, like Hamilton Street Railway (HSR, generally referred to as "Transit"), to understand data collection practices that allow disaggregation by gender and identify other resources and future data collection practices to better address the needs of women riders. The research program will last three (3) years and is designed to determine a policy framework and principles to aid in developing transit services through a gender lens.

Transit will participate in the research study over the next three (3) years and will provide a \$30,000 grant to the research fund, which was incorporated into the 2024 Operating Budget. Participation will include attendance at quarterly meetings, non-identifiable data sharing, panel presentations and hosting a student trainee working on the project.

Transit has agreed to support and participate with the researchers on this project. In doing so, we are joining other systems like Edmonton, Calgary, and TransLink (Metro Vancouver) in supporting this important work. This work aligns with the Term of Council Priorities respecting Safe and Thriving Neighbourhoods. Additionally, this work supports the September 21, 2023 motion at the Emergency and Community Services Committee respecting Gender Base Safety Audits, which includes contemplating transit safety through a gender lens.

Further, through Transit's Network (Re)Design, Transit has also focused on equity and inclusion as an impetus to enhance service. Participating in this research project will create benefits for both the local transit service and contribute to the national body of work on the topic.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PW24048 - Understanding and Responding to the Public Transit Needs of Women in Canada