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May 6, 2022

Kevin Quinn,
CEO, TransLink
400-287 Nelson's Ct.
New Westminster BC
V3L 0E7

Dear Kevin,

Re: Understanding and Responding to the Transit Needs of Women in Canada

Through funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, The University of Alberta partnered with Leading Mobility and Polytechnique Montréal to produce a report that analysed and presented the travel behaviour and needs of women and female-presenting peoples in the report titled 'Understanding and Responding to the Transit Needs of Women in Canada'. The report states that there are many facets to women using public transport, which cannot be taken in one single view; they need to be put into context.

Women are primary caretakers. They are responsible for taking children to and from appointments, visiting elderly parents, go to work, and grocery shopping, which requires frequent trip chaining. These trips can be a heavy financial burden that women cannot afford.

To increase transit usage, women need to feel safe utilizing those modes of transportation. However, we know this is not the case as women face the fear of harassment and assault while using transit. The Surrey Board of Trade has heard firsthand incidents of harassment and fear from our members while using transit. This fear of safety is not easily understood. Although men can also feel unsafe using transit, the concerns are different. A family-only compartment or area on a transit vehicle can potentially improve safety and make riders feel at ease and increase their willingness to use public transit.

The Surrey Board of Trade recommends that:

1. TransLink research the transit needs of women;
2. The time for one fare during the day is extended to 3 hours, reducing the financial burden placed on women;
3. TransLink implement a family-only cab, compartment, or section of a transit vehicle;
4. More female staff be hired to provide a level of comfort for women, and;
5. Better lighting be installed at all transit stops, and on all transit vehicles.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-634-0342 or by email at anita@businessinsurrey.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Huberman'.

H. Captain (Navy) Anita Huberman
President & CEO, Surrey Board of Trade