

Burlington Seniors Advisory Committee Delegation to Council, November 30<sup>th</sup>. 2021

Budget Consideration of Permanent Off-Peak Transit for Seniors.

The idea of Free Off-Peak Transit for Burlington Seniors arose from Burlington Seniors Advisory Advocacy Sub Committee and was delegated to Council by BSAC Chair, Jim Thurston, in 2017 for consideration in the 2018 budget. The idea was not adopted by council.

The environmental, economic, and social benefits of Free Off-Peak Transit for Seniors was recognized by Burlington for Accessible Sustainable Transit (BfAST) and included in its 2018 Municipal Election Candidates Survey where the idea received positive responses from every candidate.

The 2018 election of a new term of council, in which all elected candidates had voiced support for Free Off-Peak Transit for Seniors, afforded BSAC the opportunity to delegate once again in 2018 for consideration in the 2019 budget. Based on that delegation, with supporting cost calculations from BSAC, Burlington Transit and the City Finance Office, Council adopted a motion to implement a pilot project to study the impact of Free Off-Peak Transit for Seniors for a one-year period.

The initial impact on seniors' transit ridership was extremely positive and I think, fair to say, very encouraging to Burlington Transit and Council.

Like every other transit system in the country, every cohort of city ridership and indeed every aspect of city service, Covid 19 devastated participation. Burlington Transit ridership is now recovering and with continuing support from council BSAC is confident that seniors' ridership is recovering too.

BSAC would like to thank City Council and Burlington Transit for their continued support for this pilot. We welcome and fully support the proposal to convert that pilot to a permanent feature of Burlington Transit Services.

Jim Young,

Chair BSAC.