



# AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 1505

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July 8, 2022

The Honourable Heather Stefanson  
Premier of Manitoba

Dear Premier Stefanson,

We are encouraged by the announcement of the \$529 million investment in our Winnipeg Transit system and by the collaboration made by all three levels of government as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

However, we must acknowledge the persisting operational and infrastructure funding deficit in the Winnipeg Public Transit system. The deficits in funding affect our ability to retain workers and provide adequate service delivery to our citizens, considering population growth and the rising cost of living.

The operational funding deficit caused by the freezing of the 50/50 funding for Transit operations at the 2016 level has resulted in the City's inability to increase service and also retain operators and maintenance workers as they are leaving to pursue better opportunities elsewhere – we are currently down 150 operators. The expansion of the fleet will require more drivers, which we must retain to provide service to our citizens.

The city's population has outgrown the current infrastructure, which is not fully equipped to respond to the increased demand for Public Transportation. More citizens are relying on Public Transit due to the high costs of fuel, the rising cost of living, loss of personal vehicles, and the easing of pandemic restrictions. The citizens of Winnipeg need a Transit system that works so they can work – investment in Public Transit is an investment in the economy.

We implore you, therefore, that the province provides operational and infrastructure funding to meet the needs of a growing population and increased demands for an efficient, reliable, and safe Public Transportation system.

Respectfully yours,

Romeo Ignacio  
President, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505

Cc:

Mayor Brian Bowman, City of Winnipeg  
Wab Kinew, Leader of the Official Opposition, NDP  
Matt Wiebe, Critic for Municipal Relations  
Cindy Gilroy, City Councillor for Daniel McIntyre Ward  
Sherri Rollins, City Councillor for Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry Ward  
John Orlikow, City Councillor for River Heights-Fort Garry Ward  
Scott Gillingham, City Councillor for St. James Ward

Kevin Klein, City Councillor for Charleswood – Tuxedo  
Janice Lukes, City Councillor for Waverley West Ward  
Ross Eadie, City Councillor for Mynarski Ward  
Devi Sharma, City Councillor for Old Kildonan Ward  
Vivian Santos, City Councillor for Point Douglas Ward  
Jason Schreyer, City Councillor for Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward  
Jeff Browaty, City Councillor for North Kildonan Ward  
Shawn Nason, City Councillor for Transcona Ward  
Matt Allard, City Councillor for St. Boniface Ward  
Markus Chambers, City Councillor for St. Norbert – Seine River Ward  
Brian Mayes, City Councillor for St. Vital Ward