

New Westminster: a 15-minute City

Background information contributed by the Monkey Rebel Activism Club at Ecole Glenbrooke Middle School

This motion promotes New Westminster as an example of how people and nature can coexist in harmony. We hereby call on the City of New Westminster to take immediate action to establish a 15-minute-city mindset and promote the development of these improvements throughout the city in order to support a more sustainable, healthy and connected community by 2030.

vehicle emits about 4.6 tons of carbon dioxide per year, and stopping some of these emissions would bring the city a more breathable air, less smog, cooler air, less noise pollution, less health problems for its citizens, and happier, healthier citizens.

Additionally, according to recent polls, the citizens are concerned about transport and the higher traffic in our streets, which can make it very difficult to get to places particularly in an emergency situation, and according to Road Safety BC well over two hundred people die in BC alone every year due to traffic accidents. High levels of traffic make it difficult for emergency vehicles to reach their destination and long wait times for ambulances have serious impacts on people and their families.

Let it be acknowledged that this motion would bring to our citizens **more choices, not less; more safety, not less; more freedoms, not less**. Let's unite for a brighter future!

List of Examples for Improvements

- Increased and wider **sidewalks** around the city, including side roads, so that it is possible for people to walk easily from one side of the city to the other; this would be very important in terms of accessibility and helping people with wheelchairs.
- **More benches and seating areas**, to encourage people to take breaks when they are walking and enjoy the public spaces we have
- **More trash cans**
- **More water fountains** throughout the city
- **More streetlights**, to make the City more safe and comfortable for pedestrians and bikers, not only on the areas that are close to the centre, but actually connecting our City's neighborhoods through a walking corridor
- **Improved bike lanes** so they are safer, with **physical separations** between the bike lanes and the road
- **Bike maps on every important intersection**, so people know where the next bike lane is (through a physical map on the road, or a QR code on the road)

- **More bike racks** and perhaps a bike rental system with cards that could be refilled like the bus system cards
- More **community garden** spaces, so that people could grow their own vegetables and connect with nature and each other, including educational programs so people will learn how to garden
- More **green spaces** throughout the city, focusing on lower income areas first
- **Upgrade playgrounds** around town to bigger, more active playgrounds, so kids can feel like being outside and playing, as well as adding even more outdoor fitness equipment in parks and other public spaces to encourage healthy living
- An **education campaign** regarding 15-minute Cities and the changes required to make it happen
- More **public washrooms**, so that residents and visitors to our City are able to stay out and about for longer periods of time, as well as more frequent cleaning to existent bathrooms
- **Free Public WiFi**, so citizens could walk around and feel confident that they are still connected, and make it easier for them to work or study remotely
- More opportunities and contests for **Public Art** around the City, which can add character to a city; by placing installations throughout the city, you can encourage residents to explore their neighborhoods
- **Incentives for local businesses**, so they would open up in different parts of the city, creating more vibrant smaller areas around different neighborhoods
- **Advocate for the expansion of service for our bus system**, increasing frequency and service area which is a known concern for the City
- **Continue advocating** for free transit for youth up to 18 years old
- A plan to commit to **resources** to execute and maintain these changes
- **In all of these requests**, let there be a focus on **improving lower income neighborhoods**, making those safer, more walkable and more attractive