

No action on transit pledge: Vancouver city councillor

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An opposition Vancouver city councillor accuses the city's ruling Non-Partisan Association (NPA) of failing to deliver on its promise to push for more transit buses and lower fares.

It was an election commitment that Mayor Sam Sullivan highlighted in his inaugural address nearly a year ago, saying the rising cost of transit was of concern to students, youth, seniors and working people.

"I will request that our three TransLink representatives champion options that allow TransLink to increase bus service and reduce fares to more affordable levels," said Sullivan.

But Coun. David Cadman of the Coalition of Progressive Electors says Vancouver's representatives on the TransLink board have remained silent since then. He calls it "a year of no action."

Cadman accuses the city's three representatives of failing to produce a single motion calling for more buses or lower fares.

"When you see that 80 per cent of the people who ride the transit system ride buses [rather than other forms of public transit], then it's incumbent on the Vancouver directors particularly to make sure that they are pushing for the needs of their residents that ride public transit."

NPA Coun. Suzanne Anton, who sits on the TransLink Board, admits that transit riders have been let down.

"We've made a deal with people. The deal is, 'You get out of your cars, we'll provide you with transit.' People are out of their cars. We're not providing them with transit."

Anton says there simply hasn't been enough funding for TransLink to keep up with demand, and says that cutting fares would be "impossible."