METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK FORCE

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday October 20, 2020
9:00 a.m.
28th Floor Boardroom, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

REVISED AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 October 20, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda
That the COVID-19 Response Task Force adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for October 20, 2020 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 September 23, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
That the COVID-19 Response Task Force adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held September 23, 2020 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Withdrawn 4.1 Stephen Wu, Manager, Economic Development, City of Surrey
Subject: Surrey Physical Distancing Data Pilot

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities
That the MVRD Board:
   a) endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities as presented in the report dated September 18, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”; and
   b) forward the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities to member jurisdiction Councils and the TransLink Mayors’ Council for consideration and endorsement.

1 Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.
5.2 Testing of COVID-19 in Wastewater
   Verbal Update
   Designated Speaker: Peter Navratil, General Manager, Liquid Waste Services

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 COVID-19 Response Roundtable of Issues by Members

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS

Added 9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING
   Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.

   That the COVID-19 Response Task Force close its regular meeting scheduled for October 20, 2020 pursuant to the Community Charter provisions, Section 90 (1) (m) as follows:
   “90 (1) A part of the meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
   (m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting.”

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

Membership:

Dhaliwal, Sav (C) - Burnaby  
Buchanan, Linda (VC) - North Vancouver City  
Baird, Ken - Tsawwassen First Nation  
Booth, Mary-Ann - West Vancouver  
Brodie, Malcolm - Richmond  
Coté, Jonathan - New Westminster  
Dingwall, Bill - Pitt Meadows  
Froese, Jack - Langley Township

Harvie, George - Delta  
Hocking, David - Bowen Island  
Hurley, Mike - Burnaby  
Little, Mike - North Vancouver District  
McCallum, Doug - Surrey  
McCutcheon, Jen - Electoral Area A  
McEwen, John – Anmore  
McLaughlin, Ron - Lions Bay

Morden, Mike - Maple Ridge  
Stewart, Kennedy - Vancouver  
Stewart, Richard - Coquitlam  
Vagramov, Rob - Port Moody  
van den Broek, Val - Langley City  
Walker, Darryl - White Rock  
West, Brad - Port Coquitlam
METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
COVID-19 RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) COVID-19 Response Task Force held at 1:02 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 in the 28th Floor Boardroom, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair, Board Chair Sav Dhaliwal, Burnaby
Vice Chair, Mayor Linda Buchanan*, North Vancouver City
Chief Ken Baird*, Tsawwassen
Mayor Neil Bolenkie*, Belcarra
Mayor Mary-Ann Booth*, West Vancouver
Mayor Malcolm Brodie*, Richmond* (departed at 2:17 p.m.)
Mayor Jonathan Coté*, New Westminster
Mayor Bill Dingwal*†, Pitt Meadows
Mayor Jack Froese*, Langley Township
Mayor George Harvie*, Delta
Councillor David Hocking*, Bowen Island
Mayor Mike Hurley*, Burnaby* (departed at 2:03 p.m.)
Mayor Mike Little*, North Vancouver District (arrived at 1:11 p.m.)
Mayor Doug McCallum*, Surrey (departed at 2:27 p.m.)
Director Jen McCutcheon*, Electoral Area A
Mayor John McEwen*, Anmore
Mayor Ron McLaughlin*, Lions Bay
Mayor Mike Morden*, Maple Ridge
Mayor Richard Stewart*, Coquitlam
Mayor Rob Vagramov*, Port Moody (arrived at 1:08 p.m.)
Mayor Val van den Broek*, Langley City
Mayor Brad West*, Port Coquitlam (departed at 2:15 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Vancouver
Mayor Darryl Walker, White Rock

STAFF PRESENT:
Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer
Genevieve Lanz, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by Section 3.6.2 of the Procedure Bylaw
1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 September 23, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the COVID-19 Response Task Force:

a) amend the revised agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for
   September 23, 2020 by adding Item 7.2 COVID-19 Data Reporting; and
b) adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 July 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the COVID-19 Response Task Force adopt the minutes of its regular meeting
held July 8, 2020 as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

No items presented.

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Claire Gram, Population and Health Policy and Project Lead, Vancouver Coastal
    Health and Breezie Mitchel, Community Health Specialist, Fraser Health
Claire Gram, Population and Health Policy and Project Lead, Vancouver Coastal
Health and Breezie Mitchel, Community Health Specialist, Fraser Health, provided
members with a presentation on COVID-19: Social and Community Impact –
Supporting Vulnerable Populations and Strengthening Community Resiliency,
highlighting the Ministry of Health’s Healthy Community Initiative, preparation for
virus surges, mitigation of negative social and community impacts, and
opportunities for improvement.

1:08 p.m. Mayor Vagramov arrived at the meeting.
1:11 p.m. Mayor Little arrived at the meeting.

Presentation material titled “COVID-19: Social & Community Impact Supporting
Vulnerable Populations & Strengthening Community Resiliency – Reflections and
lessons learned” is retained with the September 23, 2020 COVID-19 Response
Task Force agenda.
5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 COVID-19 Impacts – Regional Planning Information
Heather McNell, General Manager, Regional Planning and Housing Services, provided members with a presentation on the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on regional planning, highlighting Canadian Emergency Response Benefit applicant demographics, BC Temporary Rent Supplement applications per community, employment statistics, and regional land sales.

Presentation material titled “COVID-19 in the Metro Vancouver Region – Data Analysis of Regional Impacts” is retained with the September 23, 2020 COVID-19 Response Task Force agenda.

5.2 CAO Update
Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, provided members with an update on the re-opening of municipal facilities, and Metro Vancouver Districts and Housing Corporation financial status.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS
No items presented.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 COVID-19 Response Roundtable of Issues by Members
Members discussed:
• mandatory mask policies for municipal facilities,
• impact of upcoming Provincial election
• vaccine prioritization and the healthcare system
• Workers’ Compensation Board coverage for elected officials

2:03 p.m. Mayor Hurley departed the meeting.
2:15 p.m. Mayor West departed the meeting.
2:17 p.m. Mayor Brodie departed the meeting.
2:27 p.m. Mayor McCallum departed the meeting.

7.2 COVID-19 Data Reporting
Mayor Harvie introduced a motion requesting the Provincial Health Officer provide COVID-19 infection data reporting for each local government jurisdiction.

Members discussed the impact of reporting on public compliance and perception of affected areas, and the Board Chair writing a letter to the Provincial Minister of Health on behalf of Metro Vancouver.
It was MOVED and SECONDED
WHEREAS municipalities play a crucial role in implementing measures that help prevent the spread of COVID-19 through their communities;
AND WHEREAS community-specific data, including case numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths, broken down by age group, is needed to help municipalities determine the effectiveness of local efforts to combat the spread of the disease;
AND WHEREAS this data is already available in a number of other jurisdictions, including Ontario and Alberta:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the BC government Provincial Health Officer be urged to provide weekly COVID-19 case reports for each Metro Vancouver municipality, to allow local governments to more effectively support provincial efforts to prevent the spread of the virus.

CARRIED

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS
No items presented.

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING
No items presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION

It was MOVED and SECONDED

CARRIED
(Time: 2:38 p.m.)

____________________________   ____________________________
Genevieve Lanz,      Sav Dhaliwal, Chair
Legislative Services Coordinator
To: COVID-19 Response Task Force

From: Regional Planning Committee

Date: October 14, 2020  
Meeting Date: October 20, 2020

Subject: **2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities**

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**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That the MVRD Board:

a) endorse the [2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities](#) as presented in the report dated October 14, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”; and

b) direct staff to forward the [2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities](#) to member jurisdictions and the TransLink Mayors’ Council for consideration and endorsement.

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At its October 9, 2020 meeting, the Regional Planning Committee considered the attached report dated September 18, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”. The Regional Planning Committee passed the following resolution:

> That the Regional Planning Committee:
> 
a) endorse the [2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities](#) as presented in the report dated September 18, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”; and
> 
b) forward the [2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities](#) to the Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Response Task Force requesting they endorse the Declaration and forward it to member jurisdiction Councils and the TransLink Mayors’ Council for consideration and endorsement.

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**Attachment**

“2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”, dated September 18, 2020
To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Erin Rennie, Senior Planner, and Alex Taylor, Senior Planner, Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: September 18, 2020  Meeting Date: October 9, 2020

Subject: 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities

RECOMMENDATION
That the Regional Planning Committee:

a) endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities as presented in the report dated September 18, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”; and

b) forward the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities to the Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Response Task Force requesting they endorse the Declaration and forward it to member jurisdiction Councils and the TransLink Mayors’ Council for consideration and endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities is a national initiative to advance 20 recommended actions to improve resiliency in Canadian communities. It envisions a sustainable and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and action on common challenges facing Canadian cities. Per the direction of the COVID-19 Response Task Force, the Declaration has been revised to reflect regional priorities and retitled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”. The Declaration is intended to be a call-to-action for local governments and other agencies in the Metro Vancouver region to work towards a set of collective objectives, each within the context of their respective mandate and jurisdiction.

On September 11, 2020, the Regional Planning Committee referred the Declaration back to staff to be revised based on input from members at the meeting. The Declaration was revised accordingly and is being presented to the Committee for consideration and endorsement.

PURPOSE
To provide the Regional Planning Committee with the opportunity to endorse the attached 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities (Attachment) and forward it to the Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Task Force for consideration and adoption. If endorsed by the Task Force, the request would be to forward the Declaration to member jurisdictions and the TransLink Mayors Council for consideration and endorsement.
BACKGROUND
At its June 3, 2020, meeting the COVID-19 Response Task Force received a presentation from urbanists Jennifer Keesmaat and Larry Beasley on the topic of the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities. The Task Force then passed the following resolution:

That the COVID-19 Response Task Force refer the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities to the Regional Planning Committee to:

a) consider how best to participate in the national planning dialogue underway to advance the 2020 Declaration;
b) engage with member jurisdictions and TransLink to set the actions in the 2020 Declaration in a regional context and consider how to integrate the actions through supportive regional policies in Metro 2050, Climate 2050 and Transport 2050; and
c) report back to the Task Force with recommendations regarding endorsement.

At its June 12, 2020 meeting, the Regional Planning Committee received a report for information titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities – referred from COVID-19 Response Task Force” which outlined an approach to set the Declaration in the regional context. At its September 11, 2020 meeting, the Regional Planning Committee received a draft of the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities, provided feedback, and referred the Declaration back to staff to be revised based on Committee comments. This report presents the Committee with the updated Declaration.

2020 DECLARATION FOR RESILIENCE IN CANADIAN CITIES
The 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities is a national initiative led by planner and urbanist Jennifer Keesmaat and endorsed by over 1000 planners, urbanists, academics, elected officials, and others. It recommends 20 immediate actions for cities to advance more accessible, equitable, sustainable, and resilient cities across Canada. It has been developed out of a recognition that the COVID-19 pandemic recovery presents a window of opportunity for positive change as well as a responsibility to advance action on common challenges that many cities were facing pre-pandemic.

In addition to the endorsements noted above, federal funding partners have also shown interest in participating in advancing its implementation (Reference 1). The organizers and champions of the Declaration are now inviting local and regional governments across the country to participate in ongoing dialogue sessions and to formally endorse the Declaration, or similar localized version, as a signal of local government commitment towards building back more resilient communities during the COVID-19 recovery period. The 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities is made up of 20 actions divided into three themes: ensuring the responsible use of land; accelerating the de-carbonization of our transportation systems; and embracing sustainability in our built and natural environments. The Declaration notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought greater attention to the social inequities facing cities across the country and presents an opportunity to improve upon many areas post-pandemic. It also emphasizes that all of the recommended actions must be planned and implemented with an equity lens in order to bring about true resiliency for all residents.
PARTICIPATING IN THE ONGOING NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND EFFORTS
The organizers of the Declaration are proposing to further the actions through:

1. A coalition of organizations to advance the conversation;
2. A series of declaration dialogues on the topic areas; and
3. Establishing regional task forces to host conversations on local challenges and priorities.

As more information is made available, staff will identify and report back on appropriate ways for Metro Vancouver to be engaged in the above three activities.

ENGAGING WITH STAKEHOLDERS
Staff presented the Declaration at the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) meeting on June 19, 2020. RPAC members expressed support in principle, provided alternative language to better reflect the local context and challenges, and suggested adding actions related to: resiliency, food security, seniors housing, homelessness, and support for local and small businesses. Air Quality and Climate Change and TransLink staff were also consulted and expressed general support and made suggestions to better align action language with local and provincial policy, terminology, and priorities.

Staff presented the Declaration to the Climate Action Committee at its meeting on June 19, 2020. The Committee suggested changing the title from “cities” to “communities” and adding actions for ecological health, homelessness, resiliency, food security, and energy policy. The Committee was supportive of the Declaration, and resolved “that the Climate Action Committee direct staff to provide a report to the Regional Planning Committee indicating the Climate Action Committee’s support in principle and feedback on the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities”.

PROPOSED “2020 DECLARATION FOR RESILIENCE IN METRO VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES”
After reviewing the original Declaration and engaging with the Climate Action Committee, Regional Planning Committee, RPAC members, TransLink staff, and Air Quality and Climate Change staff, staff developed the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities. The regionally oriented version of the Declaration incorporates the feedback received and reflects local priorities and terminology. Some actions were merged, and twelve new actions related to affordable housing, homelessness, mental health and addictions services, building energy systems, zero waste, sustainable food systems, ecosystem health and inclusive engagement were added as these areas were not addressed in the original Declaration, but are critical regional priorities.

Responding to Regional Planning Committee’s Feedback
On September 11, 2020 Committee members provided substantial feedback on the content and wording of the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities. As a result, the following revisions have been made:

- A preamble has been added to clarify the intent of the Declaration as a higher level call for collective action in the Metro Vancouver region;
- Action language has been softened to reflect the aspirational nature of the actions; and
• Actions have been placed into 3 categories to clarify accountability - land use and complete communities, sustainability in built and natural environment, and accelerate the decarbonization of our transportation systems.

The revised 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities is attached (Attachment).

As noted by Committee members, several of the actions listed cannot be carried out by local governments alone due to jurisdiction or funding. Many of the Declaration’s actions are within federal or provincial jurisdiction and ultimately require multi-stakeholder coordination and partnerships for implementation.

TOP 5 TRANSFORMATIONAL ACTIONS
Of the 30 actions listed in the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities the following five actions present the highest potential to transform sustainability, equity, prosperity, and resiliency in the region:

• Update zoning policies to allow more households to access existing neighbourhoods by permitting appropriately scaled multi-tenanted housing, co-housing, laneway housing, and other forms of “gentle density” to be built in all transit-adjacent locations;

• Provide a minimum of 15% affordable housing in multi-family developments proximate to rapid transit to increase the supply of affordable housing in transit-adjacent locations;

• Work towards the regional objective of achieving a 40% urban tree canopy;

• Support all new large commercial, institutional and residential buildings’ carbon neutrality, resilience to local climate change impacts, and location in Urban Centres or in appropriate locations along the Frequent Transit Network; and

• Prepare and implement regional transportation system and demand management strategies such as ridesharing programs, transportation user-based pricing and regional parking policies.

Metro Vancouver communities already provide attractive, safe, and sustainable places to live, work, learn and play. While the region is strong in many areas, the affordable housing crisis, climate emergency, and pandemic impacts present serious challenges. To truly transform this region, bold and shared actions, including the five listed above, must be taken to ensure the long-term resiliency of the region.

INTEGRATING THE DECLARATION INTO REGIONAL POLICIES
Making the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities meaningful to Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions requires successful implementation. This presents an opportunity to combine the vision and momentum of this national initiative with this region’s ongoing strategic planning work to write and update the three long range regional strategies that are currently being prepared: Metro 2050, Climate 2050, and Transport 2050.

Staff will seek opportunities to integrate actions in the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities into the policy frameworks of the long-range regional strategies where
appropriate. Staff will also seek alignment with the shared Resiliency Framework currently being developed in partnership by TransLink and Metro Vancouver. Endorsing a “made-in-Metro Vancouver” version of the Declaration would provide Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, TransLink, and others with a renewed vision and support to collectively undertake these ambitious actions and use the COVID-19 pandemic recovery as a catalyst for positive change.

Planning principles that are consistent with the goals and objectives of Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future, the regional growth strategy, are still critical and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic have become more urgent than ever. Planning priorities such as containing growth and directing it to good, transit oriented locations, protecting agricultural, ecological and industrial lands, supporting the efficient provision of urban infrastructure like transit and utilities remain sound principles. Access to affordable housing and jobs; creating walkable, healthy, and inclusive communities; providing high-quality transit and mobility options; and lively, accessible retail and culture are fundamental quality-of-life issues – before, during, and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The actions in the Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities are consistent with the policy framework in Metro 2040. They ensure the responsible use of land, accelerate the decarbonisation of our transportation systems, and ensure sustainability is embraced in our built and natural environments. To ensure progressive outcomes, consistent with the vision of Metro 2040, it will be critical to apply an equity lens through the implementation process. This will ensure that outcomes continue to promote inclusive and diverse communities.

Staff note that the Metro 2050 process includes opportunities for the Regional Planning Committee to review, provide feedback, and consider the policy language that will be part of the Metro 2050 document. Endorsement of this Declaration does not supplant the Metro 2050 process in any way and members will continue to be a key review body for all content in Metro 2050.

NEXT STEPS
Staff are recommending that the Regional Planning Committee endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities and forward it to the COVID-19 Response Task Force for their consideration and endorsement. The intent would then be for the COVID-19 Response Task Force to recommend MVRD Board endorsement and that the Board to forward the Declaration to member jurisdictions and TransLink and invite them to endorse it as well.

ALTERNATIVES
1. That the Regional Planning Committee:
   a) endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities as presented in the report dated September 18, 2020, titled, “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”; and
   b) forward the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities to the Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Response Task Force requesting they endorse the Declaration and forward it to member jurisdiction Councils and the TransLink Mayors’ Council for consideration and endorsement.
2. That the Regional Planning Committee receive for information the report dated September 18, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities” and provide alternative direction to staff.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
There are no financial implications to this report. Efforts to develop and implement the *Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities* have been, and will be undertaken, as part of the regular Regional Planning work program.

**CONCLUSION**
The *2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities* is a national call to action that has been supported in principle by Metro Vancouver’s COVID-19 Response Task Force, Regional Planning Committee, Climate Action Committee, and Regional Planning Advisory Committee. Preparing a made-in-Metro Vancouver version of the Declaration is an opportunity to customize, prioritize and implement the actions in our region, as appropriate, through *Metro 2050*, *Climate 2050*, and *Transport 2050*. By doing so, Metro Vancouver can better support a sustainable and equitable recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic, and improve the long term resiliency of the region.

In consultation with key stakeholders, staff have drafted the *2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities* which is a regionalized version of the original Declaration. It includes 10 added actions to better reflect local priorities and challenges related to housing affordability, nature and ecosystems, food security, and zero waste.

Following the September 11, 2020 Regional Planning Committee Meeting, staff revised the actions based on Committee feedback. Of the 30 actions, staff have highlighted five transformational actions with the highest potential to accelerate transformative positive change in this region. The COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity and responsibility to accelerate work to achieve the change required in Metro Vancouver communities and across Canada to respond to this and other crises. With a coordinated effort by the federal and provincial governments, TransLink, Metro Vancouver and municipalities can position the region to thrive as by embracing a new normal and re-committing to “building back better.” The intent of the Declaration is to inspire bold collective action that each government and agency can work towards within the context of their own community and mandate.

Staff recommend Alternative 1 that the Regional Planning Committee endorse the *2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities* and forward it to the COVID-19 Response Task Force for consideration and endorsement.

**Attachment**
2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities (Revised September 18, 2020)

**References**
1. [2020 Declaration website](#)
2. [June 3, 2020 MVRD COVID-19 Response Task Force Meeting Minutes, item 4.1](#)
3. [September 11, 2020 Regional Planning Committee Staff Report dated July 27, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”]
**2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities**
*Adapted by Metro Vancouver from the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities*

The COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity and responsibility to accelerate the change we require in Metro Vancouver communities and across Canada. With a coordinated effort by the federal and provincial governments, TransLink, Metro Vancouver and municipalities, we can position the region to thrive as we embrace a new normal and a strong impetus to “build back better.” The intent of the Declaration and actions below is to inspire bold collective action that each government and agency can work towards within the context of their own community and mandate.

### LAND USE AND COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

1. **Update** zoning policies to allow more households to access existing neighbourhoods by permitting appropriately scaled multi-tenant housing, co-housing, laneway housing, and other forms of “gentle density” to be built in all transit-adjacent locations.

2. **Commit** to the creation of 15-minute neighbourhoods in which it is possible to live, work, play, and shop; by among other things permitting corner stores, local retail, community services including child care, and live-work housing; and by adding more local parks equitably throughout cities.

3. **Regulate** short-term rentals to ensure that residents of the region have access to rental housing and to ensure that the rental housing supply in Metro Vancouver is not negatively affected post-COVID-19.

4. **Prioritize** parking reductions and enhance visitor, car share, and bicycle parking supply for any new building, particularly along the Frequent Transit Network; to both signal a shift in mobility priorities, and to remove the costly burden of parking on housing. Consider the introduction of parking maximums in transit-oriented locations.

5. **Prioritize** the use of existing municipally-owned land for the creation of affordable housing that remains affordable in perpetuity, and for strategic public green space that supports increased density.

6. **Explore** stronger restrictions both locally and regionally to limit the expansion of low density, auto-dependent residential, commercial, and employment developments.

7. **Provide** a minimum of 15% affordable housing in multi-family developments proximate to rapid transit to increase the supply of affordable housing in transit-adjacent locations.

8. **Develop** policies to protect tenants, maintain and enhance existing rental and non-market housing, and mitigate the impacts of redevelopment on existing renters.

9. **Support** the provision of mental health and addictions services (including for the overdose crisis) in all communities.

10. **Support** increases to provincial income assistance rates and advocate for a Universal Basic Income.

### SUSTAINABILITY IN BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

11. **End** the dumping of untreated sewage outflows into lakes, streams, and waterways.

12. **Work** towards the regional objective of achieving a 40% urban tree canopy.

13. **Require** all new buildings that are government-owned or built using public dollars to be carbon neutral over their lifetime.
14. **Ensure** 100% of all government operations are powered by clean, renewable energy sources.

15. **Support** all new large commercial, institutional and residential buildings’ carbon neutrality, resilience to local climate change impacts, and location in Urban Centres or in appropriate locations along the Frequent Transit Network.

16. **Work** with the provincial and federal government to provide shelters and other services and supports in all Urban Centres.

17. **Support** the development of local and sustainable food systems including improving local distribution systems.

18. **Require** new buildings and renovations to utilize low-emission heating systems (excluding water and cooking systems), such as district energy, heat pumps and support building energy performance improvements through programs such as energy retrofits.

19. **Invest** in electric vehicle charging infrastructure for use by the general public and shared use vehicles.

20. **Adopt** circular economy practices to reduce waste and support the creation of more clean waste-to-energy sources.

21. **Protect** 50% of the region’s total land base to support ecological health, in recognition of the scientific evidence that nature needs half of the land base to continue to function for the benefit of all life and support human well-being (currently 40% of the region is protected).

22. **Integrate** natural asset valuation into conventional asset management and decision-making processes.

23. **Seek** a diversity of perspectives (including Indigenous, racialized, marginalized, and lower-income communities) to ensure that public participation processes and land use policies are culturally sensitive, inclusive, and aim to decrease inequity in our communities.

**ACCELERATE THE DECARBONIZATION OF OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS**

24. **Prioritize** the immediate transformation of existing streets and roadways for active transportation - both for the immediate, post-pandemic recovery period and as permanent measures - by adding additional space for pedestrians and protected bike lanes in a contiguous ‘everywhere-to everywhere’ network that makes walking, rolling (i.e. mobility devices), and cycling safe mobility choices for every resident, in every neighbourhood, and without impeding transit operations or goods movement.

25. To avoid inducing new single-occupancy vehicle demand, **do not support** urban highway expansion; instead focus on Transportation Demand Management strategies including growth management.

26. **Prepare** and implement regional transportation system and demand management strategies such as ridesharing programs, transportation user-based pricing and regional parking policies.

27. **Enhance** transit service levels, recognizing that interim physical distancing requirements will demand high levels of public transit service on existing routes, since passenger limits on buses will be required.

28. On major arterial roadways, **reallocate** road space to dedicated Bus Priority Lanes, to offer a higher level of service and to incentivize public transit usage as commuters transition back to workplaces and schools.

29. **Commit** to zero-emission public sector vehicular fleets; **Commit** to a zero-emission bus fleet.

30. **Work toward** a conversion timetable stipulating that 100% of taxi and Transportation Network Service vehicles will be zero-emission.
To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Erin Rennie, Senior Planner, and Alex Taylor, Senior Planner, Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: September 18, 2020

Meeting Date: October 9, 2020

Subject: 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities

RECOMMENDATION
That the Regional Planning Committee:

a) endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities as presented in the report dated September 18, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”; and

b) forward the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities to the Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Response Task Force requesting they endorse the Declaration and forward it to member jurisdiction Councils and the TransLink Mayors’ Council for consideration and endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities is a national initiative to advance 20 recommended actions to improve resiliency in Canadian communities. It envisions a sustainable and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and action on common challenges facing Canadian cities. Per the direction of the COVID-19 Response Task Force, the Declaration has been revised to reflect regional priorities and retitled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”. The Declaration is intended to be a call-to-action for local governments and other agencies in the Metro Vancouver region to work towards a set of collective objectives, each within the context of their respective mandate and jurisdiction.

On September 11, 2020, the Regional Planning Committee referred the Declaration back to staff to be revised based on input from members at the meeting. The Declaration was revised accordingly and is being presented to the Committee for consideration and endorsement.

PURPOSE
To provide the Regional Planning Committee with the opportunity to endorse the attached 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities (Attachment) and forward it to the Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Task Force for consideration and adoption. If endorsed by the Task Force, the request would be to forward the Declaration to member jurisdictions and the TransLink Mayors Council for consideration and endorsement.
BACKGROUND
At its June 3, 2020, meeting the COVID-19 Response Task Force received a presentation from urbanists Jennifer Keesmaat and Larry Beasley on the topic of the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities. The Task Force then passed the following resolution:

That the COVID-19 Response Task Force refer the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities to the Regional Planning Committee to:

a) consider how best to participate in the national planning dialogue underway to advance the 2020 Declaration;

b) engage with member jurisdictions and TransLink to set the actions in the 2020 Declaration in a regional context and consider how to integrate the actions through supportive regional policies in Metro 2050, Climate 2050 and Transport 2050; and

c) report back to the Task Force with recommendations regarding endorsement.

At its June 12, 2020 meeting, the Regional Planning Committee received a report for information titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities – referred from COVID-19 Response Task Force” which outlined an approach to set the Declaration in the regional context. At its September 11, 2020 meeting, the Regional Planning Committee received a draft of the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities, provided feedback, and referred the Declaration back to staff to be revised based on Committee comments. This report presents the Committee with the updated Declaration.

2020 DECLARATION FOR RESILIENCE IN CANADIAN CITIES
The 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities is a national initiative led by planner and urbanist Jennifer Keesmaat and endorsed by over 1000 planners, urbanists, academics, elected officials, and others. It recommends 20 immediate actions for cities to advance more accessible, equitable, sustainable, and resilient cities across Canada. It has been developed out of a recognition that the COVID-19 pandemic recovery presents a window of opportunity for positive change as well as a responsibility to advance action on common challenges that many cities were facing pre-pandemic.

In addition to the endorsements noted above, federal funding partners have also shown interest in participating in advancing its implementation (Reference 1). The organizers and champions of the Declaration are now inviting local and regional governments across the country to participate in ongoing dialogue sessions and to formally endorse the Declaration, or similar localized version, as a signal of local government commitment towards building back more resilient communities during the COVID-19 recovery period. The 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities is made up of 20 actions divided into three themes: ensuring the responsible use of land; accelerating the de-carbonization of our transportation systems; and embracing sustainability in our built and natural environments. The Declaration notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought greater attention to the social inequities facing cities across the country and presents an opportunity to improve upon many areas post-pandemic. It also emphasizes that all of the recommended actions must be planned and implemented with an equity lens in order to bring about true resiliency for all residents.
PARTICIPATING IN THE ONGOING NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND EFFORTS
The organizers of the Declaration are proposing to further the actions through:

1. A coalition of organizations to advance the conversation;
2. A series of declaration dialogues on the topic areas; and
3. Establishing regional task forces to host conversations on local challenges and priorities.

As more information is made available, staff will identify and report back on appropriate ways for Metro Vancouver to be engaged in the above three activities.

ENGAGING WITH STAKEHOLDERS
Staff presented the Declaration at the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) meeting on June 19, 2020. RPAC members expressed support in principle, provided alternative language to better reflect the local context and challenges, and suggested adding actions related to: resiliency, food security, seniors housing, homelessness, and support for local and small businesses. Air Quality and Climate Change and TransLink staff were also consulted and expressed general support and made suggestions to better align action language with local and provincial policy, terminology, and priorities.

Staff presented the Declaration to the Climate Action Committee at its meeting on June 19, 2020. The Committee suggested changing the title from “cities” to “communities” and adding actions for ecological health, homelessness, resiliency, food security, and energy policy. The Committee was supportive of the Declaration, and resolved “that the Climate Action Committee direct staff to provide a report to the Regional Planning Committee indicating the Climate Action Committee’s support in principle and feedback on the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities”.

PROPOSED “2020 DECLARATION FOR RESILIENCE IN METRO VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES”
After reviewing the original Declaration and engaging with the Climate Action Committee, Regional Planning Committee, RPAC members, TransLink staff, and Air Quality and Climate Change staff, staff developed the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities. The regionally oriented version of the Declaration incorporates the feedback received and reflects local priorities and terminology. Some actions were merged, and twelve new actions related to affordable housing, homelessness, mental health and addictions services, building energy systems, zero waste, sustainable food systems, ecosystem health and inclusive engagement were added as these areas were not addressed in the original Declaration, but are critical regional priorities.

Responding to Regional Planning Committee’s Feedback
On September 11, 2020 Committee members provided substantial feedback on the content and wording of the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities. As a result, the following revisions have been made:

• A preamble has been added to clarify the intent of the Declaration as a higher level call for collective action in the Metro Vancouver region;
• Action language has been softened to reflect the aspirational nature of the actions; and
• Actions have been placed into 3 categories to clarify accountability - land use and complete communities, sustainability in built and natural environment, and accelerate the decarbonization of our transportation systems.

The revised 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities is attached (Attachment).

As noted by Committee members, several of the actions listed cannot be carried out by local governments alone due to jurisdiction or funding. Many of the Declaration’s actions are within federal or provincial jurisdiction and ultimately require multi-stakeholder coordination and partnerships for implementation.

TOP 5 TRANSFORMATIONAL ACTIONS
Of the 30 actions listed in the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities the following five actions present the highest potential to transform sustainability, equity, prosperity, and resiliency in the region:

• Update zoning policies to allow more households to access existing neighbourhoods by permitting appropriately scaled multi-tenanted housing, co-housing, laneway housing, and other forms of “gentle density” to be built in all transit-adjacent locations;
• Provide a minimum of 15% affordable housing in multi-family developments proximate to rapid transit to increase the supply of affordable housing in transit-adjacent locations;
• Work towards the regional objective of achieving a 40% urban tree canopy;
• Support all new large commercial, institutional and residential buildings’ carbon neutrality, resilience to local climate change impacts, and location in Urban Centres or in appropriate locations along the Frequent Transit Network; and
• Prepare and implement regional transportation system and demand management strategies such as ridesharing programs, transportation user-based pricing and regional parking policies.

Metro Vancouver communities already provide attractive, safe, and sustainable places to live, work, learn and play. While the region is strong in many areas, the affordable housing crisis, climate emergency, and pandemic impacts present serious challenges. To truly transform this region, bold and shared actions, including the five listed above, must be taken to ensure the long-term resiliency of the region.

INTEGRATING THE DECLARATION INTO REGIONAL POLICIES
Making the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities meaningful to Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions requires successful implementation. This presents an opportunity to combine the vision and momentum of this national initiative with this region’s ongoing strategic planning work to write and update the three long range regional strategies that are currently being prepared: Metro 2050, Climate 2050, and Transport 2050.

Staff will seek opportunities to integrate actions in the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities into the policy frameworks of the long-range regional strategies where
appropriate. Staff will also seek alignment with the shared Resiliency Framework currently being developed in partnership by TransLink and Metro Vancouver. Endorsing a “made-in-Metro Vancouver” version of the Declaration would provide Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, TransLink, and others with a renewed vision and support to collectively undertake these ambitious actions and use the COVID-19 pandemic recovery as a catalyst for positive change.

Planning principles that are consistent with the goals and objectives of Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future, the regional growth strategy, are still critical and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic have become more urgent than ever. Planning priorities such as containing growth and directing it to good, transit oriented locations, protecting agricultural, ecological and industrial lands, supporting the efficient provision of urban infrastructure like transit and utilities remain sound principles. Access to affordable housing and jobs; creating walkable, healthy, and inclusive communities; providing high-quality transit and mobility options; and lively, accessible retail and culture are fundamental quality-of-life issues – before, during, and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The actions in the Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities are consistent with the policy framework in Metro 2040. They ensure the responsible use of land, accelerate the decarbonisation of our transportation systems, and ensure sustainability is embraced in our built and natural environments. To ensure progressive outcomes, consistent with the vision of Metro 2040, it will be critical to apply an equity lens through the implementation process. This will ensure that outcomes continue to promote inclusive and diverse communities.

Staff note that the Metro 2050 process includes opportunities for the Regional Planning Committee to review, provide feedback, and consider the policy language that will be part of the Metro 2050 document. Endorsement of this Declaration does not supplant the Metro 2050 process in any way and members will continue to be a key review body for all content in Metro 2050.

NEXT STEPS
Staff are recommending that the Regional Planning Committee endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities and forward it to the COVID-19 Response Task Force for their consideration and endorsement. The intent would then be for the COVID-19 Response Task Force to recommend MVRD Board endorsement and that the Board to forward the Declaration to member jurisdictions and TransLink and invite them to endorse it as well.

ALTERNATIVES
1. That the Regional Planning Committee:
   a) endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities as presented in the report dated September 18, 2020, titled, “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities”; and
   b) forward the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities to the Metro Vancouver COVID-19 Response Task Force requesting they endorse the Declaration and forward it to member jurisdiction Councils and the TransLink Mayors’ Council for consideration and endorsement.
2. That the Regional Planning Committee receive for information the report dated September 18, 2020, titled “2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities” and provide alternative direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no financial implications to this report. Efforts to develop and implement the Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities have been, and will be undertaken, as part of the regular Regional Planning work program.

CONCLUSION
The 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities is a national call to action that has been supported in principle by Metro Vancouver’s COVID-19 Response Task Force, Regional Planning Committee, Climate Action Committee, and Regional Planning Advisory Committee. Preparing a made-in-Metro Vancouver version of the Declaration is an opportunity to customize, prioritize and implement the actions in our region, as appropriate, through Metro 2050, Climate 2050, and Transport 2050. By doing so, Metro Vancouver can better support a sustainable and equitable recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic, and improve the long term resiliency of the region.

In consultation with key stakeholders, staff have drafted the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities which is a regionalized version of the original Declaration. It includes 10 added actions to better reflect local priorities and challenges related to housing affordability, nature and ecosystems, food security, and zero waste.

Following the September 11, 2020 Regional Planning Committee Meeting, staff revised the actions based on Committee feedback. Of the 30 actions, staff have highlighted five transformational actions with the highest potential to accelerate transformative positive change in this region. The COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity and responsibility to accelerate work to achieve the change required in Metro Vancouver communities and across Canada to respond to this and other crises. With a coordinated effort by the federal and provincial governments, TransLink, Metro Vancouver and municipalities can position the region to thrive as by embracing a new normal and re-committing to “building back better.” The intent of the Declaration is to inspire bold collective action that each government and agency can work towards within the context of their own community and mandate.

Staff recommend Alternative 1 that the Regional Planning Committee endorse the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities and forward it to the COVID-19 Response Task Force for consideration and endorsement.

Attachment
2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities (Revised September 18, 2020)

References
1. 2020 Declaration website
2. June 3, 2020 MVRD COVID-19 Response Task Force Meeting Minutes, item 4.1
2020 Declaration for Resilience in Metro Vancouver Communities

Adapted by Metro Vancouver from the 2020 Declaration for Resilience in Canadian Cities

The COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity and responsibility to accelerate the change we require in Metro Vancouver communities and across Canada. With a coordinated effort by the federal and provincial governments, TransLink, Metro Vancouver and municipalities, we can position the region to thrive as we embrace a new normal and a strong impetus to “build back better.” The intent of the Declaration and actions below is to inspire bold collective action that each government and agency can work towards within the context of their own community and mandate.

LAND USE AND COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

1. **Update** zoning policies to allow more households to access existing neighbourhoods by permitting appropriately scaled multi-tenanted housing, co-housing, laneway housing, and other forms of “gentle density” to be built in all transit-adjacent locations.
2. **Commit** to the creation of 15-minute neighbourhoods in which it is possible to live, work, play, and shop; by among other things permitting corner stores, local retail, community services including child care, and live-work housing; and by adding more local parks equitably throughout cities.
3. **Regulate** short-term rentals to ensure that residents of the region have access to rental housing and to ensure that the rental housing supply in Metro Vancouver is not negatively affected post-COVID-19.
4. **Prioritize** parking reductions and enhance visitor, car share, and bicycle parking supply for any new building, particularly along the Frequent Transit Network; to both signal a shift in mobility priorities, and to remove the costly burden of parking on housing. Consider the introduction of parking maximums in transit-oriented locations.
5. **Prioritize** the use of existing municipally-owned land for the creation of affordable housing that remains affordable in perpetuity, and for strategic public green space that supports increased density.
6. **Explore** stronger restrictions both locally and regionally to limit the expansion of low density, auto-dependent residential, commercial, and employment developments.
7. **Provide** a minimum of 15% affordable housing in multi-family developments proximate to rapid transit to increase the supply of affordable housing in transit-adjacent locations.
8. **Develop** policies to protect tenants, maintain and enhance existing rental and non-market housing, and mitigate the impacts of redevelopment on existing renters.
9. **Support** the provision of mental health and addictions services (including for the overdose crisis) in all communities.
10. **Support** increases to provincial income assistance rates and advocate for a Universal Basic Income.

SUSTAINABILITY IN BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

11. **End** the dumping of untreated sewage outflows into lakes, streams, and waterways.
12. **Work** towards the regional objective of achieving a 40% urban tree canopy.
13. **Require** all new buildings that are government-owned or built using public dollars to be carbon neutral over their lifetime.
14. Ensure 100% of all government operations are powered by clean, renewable energy sources.

15. Support all new large commercial, institutional and residential buildings’ carbon neutrality, resilience to local climate change impacts, and location in Urban Centres or in appropriate locations along the Frequent Transit Network.

16. Work with the provincial and federal government to provide shelters and other services and supports in all Urban Centres.

17. Support the development of local and sustainable food systems including improving local distribution systems.

18. Require new buildings and renovations to utilize low-emission heating systems (excluding water and cooking systems), such as district energy, heat pumps and support building energy performance improvements through programs such as energy retrofits.

19. Invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure for use by the general public and shared use vehicles.

20. Adopt circular economy practices to reduce waste and support the creation of more clean waste-to-energy sources.

21. Protect 50% of the region’s total land base to support ecological health, in recognition of the scientific evidence that nature needs half of the land base to continue to function for the benefit of all life and support human well-being (currently 40% of the region is protected).

22. Integrate natural asset valuation into conventional asset management and decision-making processes.

23. Seek a diversity of perspectives (including Indigenous, racialized, marginalized, and lower-income communities) to ensure that public participation processes and land use policies are culturally sensitive, inclusive, and aim to decrease inequity in our communities.

ACCELERATE THE DECARBONIZATION OF OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

24. Prioritize the immediate transformation of existing streets and roadways for active transportation - both for the immediate, post-pandemic recovery period and as permanent measures - by adding additional space for pedestrians and protected bike lanes in a contiguous ‘everywhere-to everywhere’ network that makes walking, rolling (i.e. mobility devices), and cycling safe mobility choices for every resident, in every neighbourhood, and without impeding transit operations or goods movement.

25. To avoid inducing new single-occupancy vehicle demand, do not support urban highway expansion; instead focus on Transportation Demand Management strategies including growth management.

26. Prepare and implement regional transportation system and demand management strategies such as ridesharing programs, transportation user-based pricing and regional parking policies.

27. Enhance transit service levels, recognizing that interim physical distancing requirements will demand high levels of public transit service on existing routes, since passenger limits on buses will be required.

28. On major arterial roadways, reallocate road space to dedicated Bus Priority Lanes, to offer a higher level of service and to incentivize public transit usage as commuters transition back to workplaces and schools.

29. Commit to zero-emission public sector vehicular fleets; Commit to a zero-emission bus fleet.

30. Work toward a conversion timetable stipulating that 100% of taxi and Transportation Network Service vehicles will be zero-emission.