

Transit Policy

E-13, M-13, P-13, N-13

LONG TITLE	A Policy Respecting Public & Private Transit	DATE OF ENACTMENT	22 January 2024
		LAST AMENDED	
REFERENCE No.	E-13, M-13, P-13, N13	NEXT REVIEW	30 May 2026
CATEGORY	Stances, Equity, and Advocacy	COMPETENT CHAMBER	Council

PREAMBLE

The purpose of this policy is to guide and outline CUSA's work and continuous advocacy in the area of transit. It aims at ensuring students' access to safe, organized, reliable, and predictable public transit services, providing strategic plans and acknowledging the impact public transit may have in students' lives. This policy shall be reviewed every two years by Council.

INTERPRETATION

- 1 This policy may be called the *Transit Policy*.
- 2 In this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:
 - “Public Transit” refers to “a system of shared passenger transportation services that are available for use by the general public, typically characterized by scheduled routes, fixed or semi-fixed pick-up and drop-off points, and shared vehicles; characterized by buses, trains, subways, and other forms of transportation that charge set fares, run on fixed routes, and are available to the public.”
 - “[Safe](#)” refers to “secure and free from liability to harm, injury, danger, or risk.”
 - “[Organized](#)” refers to “having a formal structure or network of elements, especially to coordinate or carry out widespread activities.”
 - “[Reliable](#)” refers to “that may be relied on or trusted; dependable in achievement, accuracy, and honesty.”
 - “[Predictable](#)” refers to being “able to be foretold or expected in advance, especially on the basis of previous or known behaviour.”

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

- 3 The President and VPSI — with the assistance of AVP Research & Advocacy and AVP Government Affairs — have the responsibility of advocating on behalf of students in the realm of transit and transportation.

POLICY

4 CUSA commits to advocate on behalf of students for the access to safe, organized, reliable, and predictable public transit services tailored to the needs of Ottawa's student population.

5 CUSA will employ the following strategies to ensure students have access to such services:

- (a) CUSA will maintain contact with respective government officials (such as but not limited to City Councilors, the Mayor's Office, Members of Provincial Parliament, and Members of Parliament) and stakeholders (such as but not limited to OC-Transpo) responsible for the maintenance of public transit services.
- (b) CUSA will provide students with updates concerning changes to their access to public transit services.
- (c) CUSA will publish updates on its advocacy work on the realm of transit.
- (d) CUSA will provide students with adequate lines of communication through which transit-related concerns can be reported and addressed.

6 CUSA acknowledges the impacts of public transit service unreliability in students' lives, such as and not limited to:¹

- (a) How it disconnects students from their communities.
- (b) How it limits students' housing options
- (c) How it affects students' academic and professional performance
- (d) How it constitutes a burden to student's well-being and mental health
- (e) How it affects students' ability to make plans and arrive timely at appointments and commitments

¹ Paula Rodrigo, "Can We Make It? The Impact of Public Transit on Carleton Students' Understandings of Place and Time," p. 13.