



**PUBLIC AGENDA
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORTATION**

Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Council Chamber, City Hall

Committee Members:

Councillor R. Donauer, Chair, Councillor M. Loewen, Vice-Chair, Councillor C. Clark, Councillor T. Davies, Councillor D. Hill, His Worship the Mayor (Ex-Officio)

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Recommendation

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes of regular meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation held on August 16, 2016 be adopted.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. COMMUNICATIONS (requiring the direction of the Committee)

6.1 Delegated Authority Matters

6.2 Matters Requiring Direction

6.3 Requests to Speak (new matters)

7. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

7.1 Delegated Authority Matters

7.2 Matters Requiring Direction

7.2.1 High School Bus Passes – Tammy Jensen [Files CK 7312-1 and TU 7301-01]

3 - 4

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That the age limit of 21 for eligibility to purchase High School Student fares, rides (tickets) and passes be eliminated;
2. That the change be effective September 1, 2016; and
3. That the City Solicitor be directed to amend The Transit Fares Amendment Bylaw No. 9078 as outlined in the report of the General Manager, Transportation & Utilities Department dated September 7, 2016.

7.2.2 Inquiry - Councillor D. Hill (April 25, 2016) Transit and the Saskatoon School Divisions [Files CK 7312-1 and TU 7301-1]

5 - 7

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Transportation & Utilities Department dated September 7, 2016, be forwarded to City Council for information.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

9. MOTIONS (Notice Previously Given)

10. GIVING NOTICE

11. IN CAMERA AGENDA ITEMS

12. ADJOURNMENT

High School Bus Passes – Tammy Jensen

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That City Council approve that the age limit of 21 for eligibility to purchase High School Student fares, rides (tickets) and passes be eliminated;
2. That the change be effective September 1, 2016; and
3. That the City Solicitor be directed to amend The Transit Fares Amendment Bylaw No. 9078 as outlined in this report.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request that City Council approve the elimination of the age limit for the purchase of High School Student Fares as outlined in this report.

Report Highlights

1. A speaker at the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation meeting on November 9, 2015, requested that the current age limit of 21 for eligibility to purchase the high school bus pass be removed.
2. Saskatoon Transit Administration has met with the School Boards on this matter.
3. Administration recommends that the current age limit be removed from Bylaw.

Strategic Goals

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Moving Around, including the 4-Year Priority to change attitudes around public transit and increase Saskatoon Transit ridership.

Background

At its meeting held on November 9, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation resolved:

“That the matter be referred to the Administration for a report and follow-up as to where the matter stands with regard to potential bus pass agreements with the School Boards.”

Report

Currently, the eligibility for High School Bus Passes, tickets, and cash fare is limited to students under the age of 22. This is in accordance with the age limit that the Ministry of Education has for funding high school students. Students over the age of 21 pay fees to attend high school classes.

At the November 9, 2015, Standing Policy Committee on Transportation meeting, Tammy Jensen spoke to request that the age limit be eliminated for full-time students.

Transit Administration has met with the School Boards to discuss this matter and discovered that adult students (over age 21) attend only Saskatoon Public Schools as

Saskatoon Catholic Schools do not have a program for adult students. Saskatoon Public Schools would be willing to issue appropriate identification to the estimated 190 adult students per year.

During the meetings held between Transit Administration and the School Boards, the School Boards were in agreement with Transit Administration's intention to recommend the elimination of the age limit of 21 in order to extend eligibility for the high school bus fares to full time adult students with valid High School identification.

Options to the Recommendation

The option to the recommendation would be to keep the age limit of 21 for eligibility to purchase high school Transit fares, passes and ride cards (tickets).

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder involvement includes the information provided at the Standing Policy Committee meeting by Tammy Jensen and Transit Administration discussions with the School Boards.

Communication Plan

A communication plan will be developed in collaboration with the Public School Board to inform adult students, the public, Transit staff and vendors of the changes.

Financial Implications

There could be some foregone revenue which would arise from riders purchasing fares at the discounted rate for High School students instead of the full adult rate. Given the estimated number of possible participants, this would not be a significant amount. It is possible that it might increase fare sales and ridership due to Transit being seen as more affordable by these students.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, environmental, Privacy or CPTED implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

Follow-up will be at the direction of City Council.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

Written by: Beverly Stanley, Accounting Coordinator II, Business Administration, Transportation & Utilities
Reviewed by: James McDonald, Director of Saskatoon Transit
Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, General Manager, Transportation & Utilities Department

Inquiry - Councillor D. Hill (April 25, 2016) Transit and the Saskatoon School Divisions

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Transportation & Utilities, dated September 7, 2016, be forwarded to City Council for information.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the possibility of increasing ridership while at the same time providing support for school divisions to decrease operating costs.

Report Highlights

1. Administration and both Saskatoon School Boards have met to consult about the various suggestions in the original inquiries.
2. The School Boards were interested in some of the suggestions and have agreed to work with Saskatoon Transit to develop proposals.

Strategic Goal

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Moving Around, including the 4-Year Priority to change attitudes around public transit and increase Saskatoon Transit ridership.

Background

The following inquiry was made by Councillor D. Hill at the meeting of City Council held on April 25, 2016:

“In an effort to increase transit ridership while at the same time providing support for school divisions to decrease operating costs, would the Administration, please discuss with the school boards and report back on the following items related to transit and the Saskatoon school divisions. Keeping in mind that there will be some administrative support required from each division.

- Free Saskatoon Transit passes for all elementary students that do not meet the existing school division policy requirements to be eligible for division bus services.
- That Saskatoon Transit provide free service, on regular routes, for school class groups travelling on field trips or excursions. The teachers would apply through a process of application to Saskatoon Transit. This would also present learning opportunities for educators to work with classes in planning their routes.
- That something similar to a U-Pass six-month pass system be explored, for students and staff, of high schools in Saskatoon.

Some discussions with the divisions, as part of the program, could include exploring “paid-for parking” at the high schools, increased parking restrictions around schools, passes applicable for all routes everyday all day, extension of the spring semester pass to include additional months of July and August of each year, and which schools would be the best to conduct a pilot project. Passes should be administered by each school.”

Report

Administration met with both school boards and had productive meetings with each. In terms of the three suggestions from the inquiry, the following is offered as an interim response:

Out of Area Passes

More work is required to develop a proposal with costs for this program and it would likely begin with a small pilot program. Both School Boards would be willing to enter into a pilot program if one is developed.

Class Travel Pass

Both School Boards thought that this would be a good program but it was determined that there should be a 4 to 5 month pilot program to monitor and refine. Initial rules would include no more than one class (30 students) on a bus at one time, minimum of 1-week notice, and only between the hours of 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Waivers of liability would be handled by the school boards. The Class Travel Pass could be put into pilot mode as early as October 2016.

U-Pass like Program

Neither board was interested in the U-Pass Program if it is the same as the universal pass program currently offered at the U of S, that is all students pay the same price for a six-month pass. Both boards were interested in developing a discount pass program; however, any proposals would also have to be supported through formal decisions by the elected boards prior to moving forward.

Administration is reviewing the cost and other implications these programs may incur and will continue to consult with both school boards prior to bringing any proposals forward, with the exception of the pilot Class Travel Pass which could begin as early as October 2016. Administration will also continue to investigate similar programs offered by other municipalities in Canada and the United States to determine best practices and lessons learned.

Communication Plan

Should Saskatoon Transit move forward with these initiatives, a marketing and communications plan will be developed in partnership with the School Boards to target impacted teachers, students and their parents or guardians. Saskatoon Transit will work closely with the School Boards when finalizing messaging and tactics to reach the target audience.

Financial Implications

Full financial details will be provided for each proposal developed with the school boards as these initiatives move forward.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no options, public and/or stakeholder involvement, policy, environmental, Privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

Follow-up will depend on the direction of City Council.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

Written by: Cory Shrigley, Manager Customer Engagement and Support,
Saskatoon Transit

Reviewed by: James McDonald, Director of Saskatoon Transit

Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, General Manager, Transportation & Utilities
Department

TRANS CS Inquiry - Councillor D. Hill (April 25, 2016) - Transit and the Saskatoon School Divisions