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YORK REGION TRANSIT
GREATER TORONTO AREA WEEKLY PASS AGREEMENT

The Transit Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, January 31, 2007, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Region enter into a new agreement with the Toronto Transit Commission, the Corporation of the City of Brampton and the Corporation of the City of Mississauga with respect to the sale of the Greater Toronto Area weekly transit pass.

2. The Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute any necessary forms and agreements on behalf of the Region, subject to review by Legal Services.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Regional Council authorization to proceed with a replacement agreement for the ongoing sale of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) weekly transit pass.

3. BACKGROUND

Prior to the creation of YRT there were arrangements with the Town of Markham, The Town of Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan for the sale of a weekly pass which enabled purchasers to travel on multiple transit systems with one fare. Sales of this fare media product began in 1994 and since amalgamation and the creation of YRT has continued under the original municipal arrangements.

The pass allows cross-boundary travel in York Region, Toronto, Brampton and Mississauga. It is a convenience to residents who regularly travel across municipal borders. The pass is weekly (Monday through Sunday) with unlimited travel. The current cost to purchasers is $43.00.

For residents of York Region there are two exceptions for sole use of the pass in their travels. One is for use of YRT express services which has unique pricing. The second is for crossing zones within York Region for which a zone supplement is required.

Both the production costs and sales revenues are shared amongst the four transit agencies based on agreed to formulas.

The new agreement contains little if any change to the original contracts.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Toronto Transit Commission produces and distributes the pass to one location for each participating transit agency. Each agency is then responsible for distribution through their respective sales networks. Some highlights of the agreement are as follows:

- The agreement has no fixed term. It will continue as long as the weekly pass is a valid fare media product
- Parties may terminate the agreement at any time with a minimum of six months written notice to the other agencies
- York Region sells about 1500 – 1700 passes per week
- Any price adjustments must be agreed to by all agencies

It is anticipated that even with introduction of the GTA Smartcard in York Region in 2008 that this product will continue until the TTC implements the Smartcard for their system.

4.1 Relationship To Vision 2026

The participation in collaborative solutions for transit travel by residents such as this type of fare option contributes to increased use of transit and a corresponding reduction in traffic congestion.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2007 Business Plan and Budget estimates revenues for York Region of about $1.7 million for the sales proceeds associated with the pass. This is based on a 46% share of the sales in York Region, which in turn reflects relative pass usage in York Region and Toronto.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Enables residents to complete cross-boundary travel in a cost effective manner. There is a convenience factor in that only one fare media product needs to be presented for travel on multiple systems.

7. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Region proceed with this agreement.

For more information on this report contact Paul Tobin, Manager, Finance (ext. 5691) of the Transit Branch in the Transportation and Works Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.