

10

YORK REGION TRANSIT (YRT/VIVA) UPDATE – FARE CATEGORY DEFINITIONS FOR PRESTO IMPLEMENTATION

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated February 10, 2011, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the revised definitions for fare categories for York Region Transit (YRT/Viva) be approved.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks Regional Council approval for minor revisions to the existing York Region Transit (YRT/Viva) fare policy definitions of fare categories which are required for the implementation of the PRESTO system.

3. BACKGROUND

The review and updating of the YRT/Viva Fare Policy is performed on an annual basis, usually in conjunction with a discussion on proposed fare rate changes.

The original Fare Policy was approved in June 2005. A revised policy was approved in September 2006 and reflected significant changes that had occurred in the transit environment since 2005, including the impact of the introduction of automated ticket/pass vending equipment and fare enforcement.

In September 2007, further revisions were approved. These revisions were mostly to address Fare Enforcement and Mobility Plus program changes. The most recently revised policy was approved in October 2008. At that time, future revisions to align with GTA PRESTO project partners were noted to be expected, but had not been fully defined.

As YRT/Viva is scheduled to launch PRESTO in March 2011, a few minor definition changes, associated with the fare categories, are required as outlined in this report. They are primarily to enable the PRESTO system to consistently apply fares according to classification definitions across all participating transit systems.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The necessary fare category revisions to align PRESTO partners to a common standard are described in Table one below

Table 1
Fare Category Definitions – Current and Proposed

Sample Fare 10 Tickets	Category	Definition	
		Current	Proposed
Free	Child (free ride)	Children under the age of 1 always ride free. One child 1 year of age but not yet 5 years of age may ride free with an accompanying adult (16 years of age or older). Each additional child travelling with the same adult must pay the child fare.	No change. One child up to and including 5 years of age may ride free with an accompanying adult (16 years of age or older). No change.
1 Zone-\$1.50 2 Zones-\$2.50	Child Fare	Applies to any person from the age of 5 to 13 (elementary school age).	Applies to any person from the age of 6 to 12 (elementary school age).
1 Zone-\$1.90 2 Zones-\$2.90	High School Student Fare	Applies to any person having reached the age of 14, but not having reached the age of 19, and in full-time day attendance at a qualifying educational facility (ticket/pass must be accompanied with a valid Student I.D. card issued by the facility). Applies to both Public and Catholic educational facilities located in Toronto, Durham, Halton, Peel or York. Must be a facility which: • Leads to a secondary school diploma; • Is registered and approved as providing satisfactory instruction by the Ontario Ministry of Education or the District or Catholic Schools Boards of Toronto, Durham, Halton, Peel or York.	Applies to any person having reached the age of 13, but not having reached the age of 20, and in full-time day attendance at a qualifying educational facility (ticket/pass must be accompanied with a valid Student I.D. card issued by the facility). No change.
1 Zone-\$2.60 2 Zones-\$3.60	Adult Fare	Applies to any person having reached the age of 19 , but not yet having reached the age of 65. Also includes any person between the ages of 14 and 19 who is not enrolled in full-time attendance in a qualifying secondary educational facility.	Applies to any person having reached the age of 20 , but not yet having reached the age of 65. Also includes any person between the ages of 13 and 20 who is not enrolled in full-time attendance in a qualifying secondary educational facility.
1 Zone-\$1.50 2 Zones-\$2.50	Senior Fare	Applies to any person having reached the age of 65.	No change.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. There may be marginal reductions in fare revenues. A minor shift in revenues may be observed as customers start using PRESTO instead of other fare options such as cash, tickets or monthly passes. Staff will be observing changes to assess the impact of PRESTO on the fare revenues.

The 2011 operating and capital budget submissions contain the necessary funding for PRESTO implementation and operation.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The impact of the recommendation contained in this report will be consistently applied to all municipalities across the Region.

7. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Regional Council endorse the revisions to the definitions contained in this report, associated with the fare categories, to ensure fare classifications are aligned with other PRESTO partners.

For more information on this report, please contact Paul Tobin, Manager, Finance, at Ext. 5691.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.