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YORK REGION TRANSIT FARE POLICY UPDATE

(Regional Council at its meeting on October 23, 2008

be referred this report back to the Transit Committee for further consideration regarding:

- a) amendment to Section 2(f) to allow children up to four years old to ride free*
- b) Section 2 (g) free travel on conventional transit services to emergency service workers including York Region Police and EMS staff as well as extension of free travel to Ontario Disability Support Program recipients.)*

The Transit Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, September 24, 2008, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- 1. The revised York Region Transit Fare Policy (Policy No. 1), attached to this report, be approved.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks Regional Council approval for revisions to the existing York Region Transit (YRT) Fare Policy (see *Attachment 1*).

3. BACKGROUND

The review and updating of the YRT 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, the latest revisions were approved. These revisions were mostly to address Fare Enforcement and Mobility Plus program changes.

It should be noted that due to a rescheduled timeline for York Region to implement the GTA Smart Card “Presto” in late 2010 or early 2011, further fare policy revisions are anticipated. These will be needed to further align the policies of the participating transit agencies, but as yet are not fully defined. A further report in 2009 is expected which will address the various changes needed to the YRT fare policy to reflect the impact of this major project. It will also cover certain new opportunities which will be made possible through the new system.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

There are four items of focus for proposed revisions, which are described below

Several sections of the policy are proposed to be revised as follows:

- Section 1 c. (Fare Payment Options) – to include the Employee Commuting Option or ECO pass as a valid proof of payment.
- Section 2 a. (Passenger Fare Classifications) – to include University Students (for possible future use) in anticipation of a possible approval of a U-Pass in 2009.
- Section 2 f. (Discounted Fares) - to modify the Volume purchase (paragraph iii) to include the Express pass in addition to the Adult pass in the RideSaver program. Also to modify the existing wording about post-secondary students (paragraph i).
- Section 2 g. (Free Travel) - to add the eligibility of sworn police officers upon presentation of their badge and photo ID, when not in uniform.

Possible new fare products are also to be accommodated in the amended fare policy

Possible additions to the existing fare media product matrix were researched, with a focus on short term use media such as a weekend pass, a family pass, a day pass or a multi-consecutive day pass. It was determined that all of the GTA transit agencies offering these types of products rely on their staff, primarily drivers, to activate and control proper use. As such, with our proof-of-payment system for Viva, this would be problematic for YRT to introduce or implement any of these media at this time.

It is suggested that consideration for these types of media be deferred until the Presto Card technology is in place, in order to facilitate activation and control use within the YRT system.

Relationship to Vision 2026

By endorsing an up-to-date fare policy, York Region continues to develop a transit-supportive environment and thereby contributes to the development of a more balanced transportation network.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The impact of the recommendations 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 YRT Fare Policy contained in this report.

For more information on this report, please contact Paul Tobin, Manager, Finance, at Ext. 5691, in the Transit Branch of the Transportation Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)