

Background

The Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) program has provided eligible Laurentian University students with unlimited access to transit services during the standard eight-month academic year (September through to April) since September 2006. The U-Pass offers students an option to lower their transportation costs while promoting transit ridership.

The U-Pass program requires mandatory participation by all full-time students belonging to the University's three (3) student bodies; Laurentian University Students' General Association/ Association général des étudiants Université Laurentienne (SGA/AGE), Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne (AEF) and the Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association/Association des étudiantes et étudiants aux études supérieures (GSA/AÉÉS). The number of U-Passes distributed each year is based on student enrollment. The student associations have collectively purchased approximately 6,600 U-Passes under the current agreement at an annual unit cost of \$190.00. Payments to the City of Greater Sudbury (City) are made in three installments over the course of the academic year. If approved, the extension agreement would be subject to the same terms and conditions as the original agreement dated April 9, 2014 and extension agreement dated April 19, 2017. The annual unit cost for the 2018-2019 academic year would be \$196.00 per student as per the 2018 Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law.

The U-Pass program has been successful for both Laurentian University students and Greater Sudbury Transit Services. Over the past twelve years the program has provided significant benefits to students, transit and the community as a whole by promoting environmental responsibility, increasing transportation capacity and providing value added transportation alternatives to a large population group in the Greater Sudbury community.

Next Steps

Over the next year the representatives of SGA/AGE, AEF and GSA/AÉÉS students and Greater Sudbury Transit will review the agreement terms and conditions, and discuss the details of a longer term agreement.

References

Miscellaneous user Fees 2018, (<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/budget-and-finance/2018-budget/>)