

## Request for Decision

### Universal Bus Pass Agreement Extension

Presented To:	City Council
Presented:	Tuesday, Apr 11, 2017
Report Date	Wednesday, Mar 22, 2017
Type:	Managers' Reports

### Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury authorize the General Manager of Community Development to exercise the option to extend the Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) agreement for the 2017-2018 academic year beginning September 2017 through to April 2018 and;

THAT the General Manager of Community Development and the Director of Transit Services be authorized on behalf of the City of Greater Sudbury to negotiate and execute Universal Bus Pass agreements with local University and College Student Associations.

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 2017-5 be amended to reflect the above.

### Finance Implications

The Universal Bus Pass program is an existing revenue source in the Transit Operating Budget, with anticipated revenues in 2017 of approximately \$1.24 million.

## Background

The 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

#### Signed By

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**Division Review**

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**Recommended by the Department**

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**Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
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each year is based on student enrollment and vary from year to year. For the 2016/2017 academic year, the student associations have collectively purchased approximately 6,700 U-Passes under the current agreement at an annual unit cost of \$184.00. Payments made to the City are done 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<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in addition to minor language amendments pertaining to administrative procedures and advertisement of rates agreed to by both parties. It is important to note that these amendments would not carry any additional financial burden or affect service levels provided to students. The annual unit cost for the 2017-2018 academic year would be \$190.00 per student.

The U-Pass program has been successful for both Laurentian University students and Greater Sudbury Transit Services. Over the past eleven 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.

Benefits of the U-Pass program:

- Reduced traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and roadway maintenance
- Reduced demand for parking facilities on campus
- Promote growth in public transit ridership
- Regular and reliable revenue source for Transit

### **Next Steps**

Over the next several months the representatives of SGA/AGE, AEF and GSA/AÉÉS students, with the help of City personnel, will be undertaking a review of the students needs in an attempt to improve the program as a whole (service levels, length of service etc.). Further, Greater Sudbury Transit will be undertaking a Route Optimization Study which will consider the needs of this program for students with an aim of optimizing service. It is expected through negotiations in 2017 that these changes will lead to a revamped contract that satisfies both the Students and the City's interests for 2018.

### **References**

- *Miscellaneous User Fees By-Law 2017-24 Schedule CDD-17*  
(<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/inside-city-hall/by-laws/pdf-documents/user-fee-2017-24/>)