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**SUBJECT: YOUTH/SENIOR MONTHLY PASS FARE FOR handyDART**

**PURPOSE**

This report, outlining considerations for the introduction of a youth/senior monthly pass fare for handyDART, is provided to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (the “Commission”) for **APPROVAL**.

**BACKGROUND**

At the November 5, 2019 meeting, the Commission received a motion from the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (“ATAC”) as a part of the minutes from its September 27, 2019 meeting that proposed extending the City of Victoria youth bus pass program to eligible youth handyDART users. The current Victoria Regional Transit System (“VRTS”) handyDART fare structure does not include a youth monthly pass fare, as is available with the conventional system. Additionally, given that VRTS conventional service offers a combined youth/senior monthly pass fare, this report will consider the introduction of a discounted monthly pass fare for both youth and senior handyDART users along with the acceptance of all relevant discounted fare programs.

**DISCUSSION**

As part of its efforts to improve the equality between its conventional and custom (handyDART) services, BC Transit is working with its local government partners to address any discrepancies with fare pricing. Historically, fares for handyDART service have been restricted to cash and tickets, with limited or no monthly pass options, and the fare amounts being set higher than those of conventional to reflect the higher cost of providing the service. The current VRTS handyDART fare structure offers cash, ticket and adult monthly pass fares with the fare amounts being equal to those of conventional service, but does not provide customers the option of a discounted youth/senior monthly pass.

**Table 1: Current handyDART Fare Structure**

Fare Type	Fare Amount
Cash	\$2.50
Tickets	\$22.50
Adult Monthly Pass	\$85.00

Importantly, ticket and monthly pass products are universal and available for use interchangeably on both conventional and handyDART services. This universal use would also apply to the youth/senior monthly pass upon introduction. Furthermore, the introduction of a youth/senior monthly pass would enable the use of the youth U-PASS as a valid handyDART fare, as is currently the case with post-secondary U-PASS programs.

With the introduction of a youth/senior monthly pass, it is anticipated that transit revenues would decrease as a result of customers who currently purchase an adult monthly pass at the rate of \$85.00 may be eligible to purchase a youth/senior monthly pass at the rate of \$45.00. As a result of their universal use on both services, monthly pass revenues are currently captured solely in conventional revenues, meaning that any changes to fares would only be reflected in conventional revenues. It is estimated that approximately 55 handyDART users that currently purchase an adult monthly pass would be eligible for the new youth/senior monthly pass, which would result in an estimated decrease to annual conventional revenues of \$25,000.

**Table 2: Proposed Change to handyDART Fare Structure**

Fare Type	Current	Proposed
Cash	\$2.50	\$2.50
Tickets	\$22.50	\$22.50
Adult Monthly Pass	\$85.00	\$85.00
Youth/Senior Monthly Pass	N/A	\$45.00
Impact on Annual Conventional Fare Revenues:		-\$25,000

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Victoria Regional Transit Commission:

1. **APPROVE** the introduction of a youth/senior monthly pass fare for handyDART;
2. **APPROVE** the acceptance of all youth U-PASS and similar discount programs.

Respectfully,

Ryan Dennis  
 Manager, Sales and Revenue