

November 4, 2020

Victoria Regional Transit Commission
520 Gorge Road East
Victoria, BC
V8W 9T5

Motion to the Transit Commission Re: Youth Transit in Victoria

In November of 2019, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission approved a pilot U-PASS program for the City of Victoria to provide monthly bus passes to youth aged 18 years and younger who reside within the municipality of Victoria. The approved fee was the U-PASS rate of \$11.25 per eligible youth per month, and the number of eligible youth for the program was all school aged youth. The pilot program ran from December 2019 to August 2020 and the intent was to create a regular U-PASS program starting in September 2020. However, due to the pandemic and much reduced ridership, the permanent program was delayed and instead the City continued providing monthly passes but paid the bulk rate of \$40.50 for each pass issued.

As directed by City Council, and in anticipation of increased ridership, City staff worked with BC Transit staff to develop terms for a permanent U-Pass program that will use U-PASS cards instead of monthly passes. The pilot period provided an opportunity to collect data, specifically the ages of the youth who used the program. The majority of youth (90%) were 11 years of age and older. The City would like the program to be offered to all youth 18 years and younger, but would like a hybrid fee structure recognizing that the vast majority of participants are 11 years of age and older. Therefore, the City of Victoria is requesting that the Commission approve a fare of \$11.25 per month for each eligible youth aged 11 to 18, and a fee of \$11.25 per month for each pass issued for youth 10 years of age and younger.

Lessons learned from the pilot also highlighted the lack of a clause in the agreement that allowed for an adjustment to the fee/number of eligible youth that would be triggered if ridership significantly decreased - like the situation the pandemic caused. Therefore, the City is requesting that the Commission approve the incorporation of a clause into the agreement that would allow for such an adjustment.

For 2021, the City of Victoria has budgeted for this program on the basis of the original understanding of a U-PASS rate and the Commission's support for the provision of a U-PASS rate for youth bus passes in Victoria.

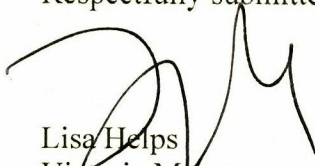
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Recommendation:

That the Commission approve a U-PASS program for youth residing in the municipality of Victoria as follows:

1. A fare of \$11.25 per month for eligible youth 11 to 18 years of age
2. A fare of \$11.25 per month for each pass issued to youth 10 years of age and younger
3. The incorporation of a clause in the agreement that allows an adjustment to the fee or the number of eligible youth in the event of a significant drop in ridership, as was the case when the pandemic struck.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor