

13 DECEMBER 2017

LE 13 DECEMBRE 2017

EXTRACT OF DRAFT TRANSIT  
COMMISSION MINUTES 26

EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU  
PROCÈS-VERBAL 26 DE LA  
COMMISSION DU TRANSPORT  
EN COMMUN

4 DECEMBER 2017

LE 4 DECEMBRE 2017

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2018 DRAFT OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET - TRANSIT COMMISSION

ACS2017-CCS-TRA-0006

CITY WIDE

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**REPORT RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Transit Commission consider the relevant portions of the draft 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets and forward its recommendations to Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, for consideration at the meeting of 13 December 2017.**

Mr. John Manconi, General Manager, Transportation Services Department (TSD) spoke to a detailed PowerPoint slide presentation which served as an overview of the Transit Commission's portion of the 2018 City Budget. A copy of this presentation is held on file with the City Clerk. Messrs. Troy Charter, Director, Transit Operations, TSD, Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, TSD, Jim Hopkins, Chief Safety Officer, Safety, Compliance, Training and Development, TSD, and Ms. Jocelyn Bégin, Manager and Special Advisor to the GM, TSD, were also present to respond to questions.

Mr. Manconi also made reference to the subsequent agenda item during his presentation [Equipass Singleride Fare (Equifare) Implementation Plan - Information Supplemental to the 2018 Budget] and the two items were considered in conjunction with each other.

Councillor Qaqish took the Chair as Councillor Blais introduced the following Motion:

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**MOTION N<sup>o</sup> TTC 26/01**

Introduced by Councillor S. Blais:

**WHEREAS the EquiPass and EquiFare programs are provided through the Presto card, and the cost of Presto cards adds an additional burden to low-income users of these fare categories; and**

**AND WHEREAS the City Treasurer has advised that providing a credit to 2017 EquiPass holders equivalent to the cost of the Presto card can be accomplished within the approved 2017 budget and establishing the price for a new Presto card for EquiPass/EquiFare customers at zero will not have an impact on the 2018 budget;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Transit Commission recommend that Council approve the following:**

- 1. That a credit of \$6.00 be issued to the Presto account of every customer who registered for the EquiPass discount in 2017 and who had the discount loaded onto their Presto card and registered their Presto card, and that this credit be funded from within the approved 2017 funding for the EquiPass discount; and**
- 2. That the User Fee table in the 2018 Draft Operating budget be amended to provide that the price for a new Presto card for a customer making a new registration for the EquiPass or EquiFare discount be set at zero, and that this discount from the regular price be funded from within the proposed funding for the EquiPass/EquiFare discounts.**

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The Commission then heard from the following public delegations:

- Mr. Robert Crout\*
- Ms. Caitlin Thibeault\*, Harmony House, and Ms. Sylvie Amizero\*, City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)
- Mr. Alex Cullen\*, on behalf of Mr. Roland Dorsay, Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA)
- Mr. Alex Cullen\*, on behalf of Ms. Margaret Dunn, Ottawa Seniors' Transportation Committee, Council on Aging (COA)
- Ms. Bessa Whitmore, on behalf of Ms. Joan Kuyek\*, Gotta Go! Campaign
- Ms. Hélène Nadeau\*, Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Ms. Carol Chantal\*
- Mr. Trevor Haché\*, Vice-President, Healthy Transportation Coalition
- Mr. Joel Harden
- Ms. Kathleen Fortin (ACORN)
- Ms. Heather Stecher

*[ \* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions are held on file with the City Clerk. ]*

Although the delegations were generally supportive of EquiPass and EquiFare, it was suggested that the cost of the EquiPass be lowered to \$42 (from \$57) and that the City be more lenient regarding qualifying income criteria. The speakers' concerns touched upon, but were not limited to: unaffordable fare increases in excess of rates of inflation; accessibility issues for disabled and aged members

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of the population; the need for better washroom signage; the need for accessible washrooms and functioning dual / redundant elevators at transit stations, and; barrier-free transferability between all components of the City's transit system.

ParaTranspo users expressed the need to consider the service as essential, rather than as a luxury, and that it should be available on a 24/7 basis in cases of emergency. Users also expressed that the current fleet was inadequate to keep up with demand, was unreliable, and that service levels had dropped over the past decade, resulting in imprecise or late pick-ups, with refusals for service becoming more commonplace. Delegates also expressed the concern that moving to on-line booking could be detrimental to those without access to computers.

Commissioners' questions to staff, and discussions, touched upon matters raised by the delegations and included requests to confirm whether any follow up correspondence had been received from the Province regarding funding for a Low Income Transit Pass other than an initial acknowledgement from the Premier in June of 2016, and that additional information with respect to the 2018 Revenue projections be provided to Members of Transit Commission and Council before Council considers the Budget on 13 December 2017 (as detailed further below).

The Commission then considered the following Motions:

**MOTION N<sup>o</sup> TTC 26/01**

Moved by Councillor M. Qaqish:

**WHEREAS the EquiPass and EquiFare programs are provided through the Presto card, and the cost of Presto cards adds an additional burden to low-income users of these fare categories; and**

**AND WHEREAS the City Treasurer has advised that providing a credit to 2017 EquiPass holders equivalent to the cost of the Presto card can be accomplished within the approved 2017 budget and establishing the price**

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for a new Presto card for EquiPass/EquiFare customers at zero will not have an impact on the 2018 budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Transit Commission recommend that Council approve the following:

1. That a credit of \$6.00 be issued to the Presto account of every customer who registered for the EquiPass discount in 2017 and who had the discount loaded onto their Presto card and registered their Presto card, and that this credit be funded from within the approved 2017 funding for the EquiPass discount; and
2. That the User Fee table in the 2018 Draft Operating budget be amended to provide that the price for a new Presto card for a customer making a new registration for the EquiPass or EquiFare discount be set at zero, and that this discount from the regular price be funded from within the proposed funding for the EquiPass/EquiFare discounts.

CARRIED

**MOTION N<sup>o</sup> TTC 26/02**

Moved by Councillor M. Qaqish:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Transit Commission recommends that Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, approve the Transit Commission 2018 Draft Operating and Capital Budget, as follows:

1. Transit Services as follows:

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- i) User fees (pp. 4-6) as amended by Motion N<sup>o</sup> TTC 26/01;
  - ii) Operating Resource Requirement (p. 3);
  - iii) Transit Commission Capital Budget (pp. 7 and 8), [individual projects listed pp. 14-33].

CARRIED

Discussions having concluded, the report recommendation was put before the Commission and was "CARRIED", as amended by Motions N<sup>OS</sup> TTC 26/01 and 26/02.

**That the Transit Commission recommends that Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, approve the Transit Commission 2018 Draft Operating and Capital Budget, as follows:**

**1. Transit Services as follows:**

**a) User fees (pp. 4-6) as amended by the following;**

- i. That a credit of \$6.00 be issued to the Presto account of every customer who registered for the EquiPass discount in 2017 and who had the discount loaded onto their Presto card and registered their Presto card, and that this credit be funded from within the approved 2017 funding for the EquiPass discount, and;
- ii. That the User Fee table in the 2018 Draft Operating budget be amended to provide that the price for a new Presto card for a customer making a new registration for the EquiPass or EquiFare discount be set at zero, and that this discount from

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**the regular price be funded from within the proposed funding  
for the EquiPass/EquiFare discounts;**

- b) Operating Resource Requirement (p. 3);
- c) Transit Commission Capital Budget (pp. 7 and 8), [individual projects listed pp. 14-33].

CARRIED, as amended

The following Directions to Staff were also provided:

**DIRECTIONS TO STAFF:**

1. That the Office of the City Clerk and Solicitor confirm whether any additional follow up correspondence has been received from the Province regarding funding for a Low Income Transit Pass other than the initial acknowledgement from the Premier in June, 2016, and that the Chair work with the Mayor to send a follow-up letter to the Province.
2. That additional information with respect to the 2018 Revenue projections be provided to Members of Transit Commission and Council before Council considers the budget on 13 December 2017, including an explanation of:
  - What accounts for the difference between the 2017 forecast and the 2018 budget, and;
  - What different revenue streams are included in “Fees and Services”.

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EQUIPASS SINGLERIDE FARE (EQUIFARE) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN -  
INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE 2018 BUDGET

ACS2017-TSD-TS-0003

CITY WIDE

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**REPORT RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Transit Commission and Council receive this report as information supplemental to the 2018 Draft Transit Commission Operating and Capital Budgets.**

The Commission received a brief PowerPoint slide presentation overview of the report from Mr. Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, Transportation Services Department (TSD). A copy of the presentation is held on file with the City Clerk. Messrs. John Manconi, General Manager, TSD, Troy Charter, Director, Transit Operations, TSD, Jim Hopkins, Chief Safety Officer, Safety, Compliance, Training and Development, TSD, and Ms. Jocelyn Bégin, Manager and Special Advisor to the GM, TSD, were also present to respond to questions.

The Committee heard from the following delegations, who both spoke to issues of ever-increasing costs and the need to keep transit fares affordable, both now and in the future:

- Mr. Trevor Haché, Vice-President, Healthy Transportation Coalition
- Ms. Heather Stecher

There being no further discussion, the report recommendation was put before the Commission and was "RECEIVED" as presented.