

MOTION – FREE TRANSIT FOR DISPLACED UKRAINIANS COMING TO
OTTAWA

CITY WIDE

Motion No. 2022 TTC 33-01

Moved by Chair A. Hubley

That, pursuant to Subsection 89(3) of the Procedure By-law (being By-law N^o 2021-24), the Transit Commission approve that the item “Motion – Free transit for displaced Ukrainians coming to Ottawa” be added to the agenda for consideration at today’s Transit Commission meeting.

CARRIED

Motion No. 2022 TTC 33-02

Moved by: Chair A. Hubley

WHEREAS on February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine triggering Europe’s largest refugee crisis since World War II; and

WHEREAS a quarter of the Ukrainian population has been displaced with many people having fled to Ottawa; and

WHEREAS for these displaced families and individuals to be fully welcomed into the Ottawa community, they will need to go through a series of steps, including paperwork, assessments, job searches, language training, seeking medical assistance, and finding housing, all of which would be made easier using the OC Transpo system; and

WHEREAS it is expected that these families and individuals will not receive any employment income or other support until the above steps are completed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transit Commission recommend that Council approve offering a transit pass valid for six months of unlimited travel on OC Transpo for those displaced families and individuals coming to Ottawa from Ukraine, and that these passes be provided at no charge to the Community and Social Services Department and to the agencies providing refugee services, so that they may distribute them to those of their clients who are not receiving transportation funding from other levels of government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff include a referral in the 2022-2026 Term of Council Governance Review that Council consider in the new Term of Council whether there should be a consistent, ongoing approach to support all refugees coming to Ottawa by providing no-charge transit service.

Renée Amilcar, General Manager, Transit Services Department, and Caitlin Salter MacDonald, Manager, Council and Committee Services, Office of the City Clerk answered questions from Commission.

Following discussions, the Commission CARRIED the motion with the following DIRECTION TO STAFF:

That Transit Services staff provide additional information by memorandum to Transit Commission and Council, prior to this matter being considered by Council, including:

- The implications (including financial) of amending the motion to offer no-charge transit service to all refugees; and,
- Information on whether the refugees are entitled to support either from government, or the private organizations that have sponsored them;
- Information on the number of refugees the City of Ottawa welcomes annually.