For Action

City Council Transmittal – Economic and Community Development Committee Item 17.2 Fair Pass Program – 2020 Update

Date: February 10, 2021
To: TTC Board
From: Director – Commission Services

Summary

Transmittal letter from the City Clerk confirming that City Council on November 25 and 26, 2020, adopted the subject item and has forwarded a copy of City Council's decision to the Toronto Transit Commission Board for consideration.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the TTC Board:

1. Request the Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Transit Commission, in partnership with the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, as part of the Toronto Transit Commission's 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook to identify, streamline and reduce barriers for residents to fully apply for the Toronto Transit Commission's fare concessions and the Fair Pass discount.

2. As part of the Toronto Transit Commission's 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook, review fare measures to assist seniors.

Signature

Chrisanne Finnerty
Director – Commission Services

Attachments

Attachment 1 – City Council Transmittal – Economic and Community Development Committee Item 17.2

Attachment 1

TORONTO

John D. Elvidge
Interim City Clerk

City Clerk's Office

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In reply please quote:
Ref.: 20-EC17.2

December 2, 2020

Mr. Rick Leary, Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Transit Commission
1900 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4S 1Z2

Dear Mr. Leary:

Subject: Economic and Community Development Committee Item 17.2
Fair Pass Program – 2020 Update

City Council on November 25 and 26, 2020, adopted this Item, as amended, and among other things has:

1. Requested the Toronto Transit Commission Board to direct the Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Transit Commission, in partnership with the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, as part of the Toronto Transit Commission's 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook to identify, streamline and reduce barriers for residents to fully apply for the Toronto Transit Commission's fare concessions and the Fair Pass discount.

2. Requested the Toronto Transit Commission Board, as part of the Toronto Transit Commission's 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook, to review fare measures to assist seniors.

Yours truly,

for City Clerk

M. Toft/sb

Attachment

Sent to:

c. City Manager
Director, Commission Services, Toronto Transit Commission

TORONTO **Committee Report**
Report Item

Considered by City Council on
November 25, 2020
November 26, 2020

Economic and Community Development Committee

EC17.2		Amended		Ward: All

Fair Pass Program - 2020 Update

City Council Decision

City Council on November 25 and 26, 2020, adopted the following:

1. City Council approve the Fair Pass Program resumption strategy in the report (October 28, 2020) from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, and City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to implement the resumption strategy.

2. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report to the Economic and Community Development Committee, as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Update report in the second quarter of 2021, on funding options for the full implementation of the Fair Pass Program, including consideration in the 2022 Budget process.

3. City Council request the Toronto Transit Commission Board to direct the Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Transit Commission, in partnership with the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, as part of the Toronto Transit Commission's 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook to identify, streamline and reduce barriers for residents to fully apply for the Toronto Transit Commission's fare concessions and the Fair Pass discount.

4. City Council request the Toronto Transit Commission Board, as part of the Toronto Transit Commission's 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook, to review fare measures to assist seniors.

5. City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to present an update on the suspension of the Fare Pass Transit Discount Program to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee no later than the end of the first quarter of 2021.

Committee Recommendations

The Economic and Community Development Committee recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Fair Pass Program resumption strategy in the report (October 28, 2020) from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, and

direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, to implement the resumption strategy.

2. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, to report to the Economic and Community Development Committee, as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Update report in the second quarter of 2021, on funding options for the full implementation of the Fair Pass Program, including consideration in the 2022 Budget process.

Origin

(October 28, 2020) Report from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Summary

In 2016, as part of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy, City Council approved the Fair Pass Program which reduces the cost of public transit for low income residents by providing a discount on an adult Toronto Transit Commission fare. Since the inception of the program, the City of Toronto has issued Fair Pass discounts programmed onto a PRESTO card to over 80,000 Toronto Transit Commission riders saving Toronto's lowest income residents over $11.3 million on the cost of Toronto Transit Commission transit fares.

In March 2020, as part of the City's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the City suspended a number of services and programs in order to meet health and safety requirements and focus resources on the maintenance and delivery of critical emergency supports and services for vulnerable and marginalized residents. Consistent with this approach, the receipt and processing of new applications for the Fair Pass Program was suspended, while annual renewals of Fair Pass discounts for residents who remain eligible for the benefit have continued to be processed.

Planning is now underway to resume in December 2020 the acceptance and processing of new applications for the Fair Pass Program in a manner which ensures the health and safety of residents and staff.

This report provides an update on the full resumption of the Program and the impacts to service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes an outline of the City's plan to complete implementation of the current second of three implementation phases. The report also identifies outstanding operational and technical barriers related to the Fair Pass Program's integration with the PRESTO card system. Finally, it provides an update on required work to move towards Phase 3 (full implementation) of the Program, which will see eligibility extended to all adult residents whose income is less than the Low-Income Measure plus 15 percent.

Background Information (Committee)

(October 28, 2020) Report from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration on Fair Pass Program - 2020 Update
(http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-157895.pdf)

Background Information (City Council)

(November 20, 2020) Decision Letter from the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee (EC17.2a)
(http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-158820.pdf)

Communications (Committee)

(November 10, 2020) Submission from Alan Lennon, Ralph Thornton Community Centre (EC.New.EC17.2.1)
(http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ec/comm/communicationfile-123068.pdf)
(November 11, 2020) Letter from 25 organizations and 120 individuals, submitted by Shelagh Pizey-Allen, TTCriders (EC.New.EC17.2.2)
(http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ec/comm/communicationfile-123044.pdf)
(November 11, 2020) Letter from TTCriders and the Fair Fare Coalition, submitted by Shelagh Pizey-Allen, TTCriders (EC.New.EC17.2.3)
(http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ec/comm/communicationfile-123045.pdf)

Speakers

Ejay Tupe, Ralph Thornton Community Centre
Tina Shapiro, Sistering, Fair Fare Coalition, and TTCriders
Shelagh Pizey-Allen, TTCriders
Robert Williams
Adam Cohoon