Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - April 19, 2006

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works - April 11, 2006

Item No. 2 Change in High School Student Criteria to Qualify for Reduced Transit Fares through the Go-Card Program
File TT-2

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 11, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the administrative recommendation and submits the following to Council:

1. That students enrolled in the Manitoba Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth Home Schooling Program and residing within the City of Winnipeg be entitled to reduced fares through the Winnipeg Transit High School Go-Card Program.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - April 19, 2006

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works - April 11, 2006

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 11, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the administrative recommendations and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

RE:	**Change in High School Student Criteria to Qualify for Reduced Transit Fares Through the Go-Card Program.**
FOR SUBMISSION TO:	**Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works**
ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY:	**Dave Wardrop, Director of Transit**
REPORT DATE:	**February 1st, 2006**

RECOMMENDATION(S):
That students enrolled in the Manitoba Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth Home Schooling Program and residing within the City of Winnipeg be entitled to reduced fares through the Winnipeg Transit High School Go-Card Program.

REPORT SUMMARY

Key Issues:

- Since the inception of public transit service in Winnipeg, high school students have been allowed to use public transit at a reduced fare. While the discount given to high school students and the criteria used to determine eligibility have changed over the years, the principle has remained the same, to provide a reduced transit fare to eligible high school students.

- Students enrolled in the Manitoba Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth Home Schooling Program are not entitled to the same discounted fares provided to those students attending recognized high schools.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications:

X	None
	For the organization overall and/or for other departments
	For the community and/or organizations external to the City of Winnipeg
	Involves a multi-year contract

Comment:

Policy implications:

	No
X	Yes

Comment: The current Transit Go-Card eligibility requirements will be changed to include students enrolled in the Manitoba Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth Home Schooling Program and residing within the City of Winnipeg.

Environmental Implications:

X	No
	Yes

Comment:

Human Resources Implications:

X	No
	Yes

Comment:

Financial Implications:

X	Within approved current and/or capital budget
	Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment: There could be a maximum of 50 students enrolled in the Home School Program who also reside in the City of Winnipeg, who may take advantage of the program. Enrolment of these students in the Go-Card program would result in an estimated revenue loss of $7,800.00.

REPORT

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

Transit fare adjustments require Council approval.

HISTORY:

High school students aged 17 & 18 have been allowed to use public transit at a reduced fare since the inception of public transit service in Winnipeg. Youth aged 5-16 already qualify for reduced fares.

On May 25, 1994 Council approved extending the age requirement for high school students attending a recognized high school in Winnipeg to age 21, to be consistent with the Public Schools Act which essentially provides an upper age limit of 21 years.

DISCUSSION:

Students are currently required to pay different fares if one attends a recognized high school and the other is home schooled, yet they are both obtaining a high school education. The proposed change would provide equity for all students obtaining a high school education within the City of Winnipeg.

Home schooling students would be obligated to provide an Enrolment Statement which is provided by the Manitoba Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth. The Enrolment Statement is dated and provides their current address which will ensure that students are residents of the City of Winnipeg. Eligible students would also be required to purchase a Photo Student I.D. Permit at a cost of $3 to qualify for reduced fares.

The proposal is to extend approval of reduced fares to include students enrolled in the Province of Manitoba, Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth Home schooling Program, so long as the student resides in the City of Winnipeg.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Project Name: Change in High School Student Criteria to Qualify for Reduced Transit Fares

Date: February 1st, 2006 First Year of Program: **2006**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required					
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs					
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal					
Debt - External					
Grants (Ienter Description Here)					
Reserves, Equity, Surplus					
Other -					
Total Funding	$ -	$	$	$	$
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs					
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recover	(7,800)	(7,800)	(7,800)	(7,800)	(7,800)
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 7,800	$ 7,800	$ 7,800	$ 7,800	$ 7,800
Less: Existing Budget Amounts					
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ 7,800	$ 7,800	$ 7,800	$ 7,800	$ 7,800

Additional Comments: Costs will be recovered either through increased ridership due to this offering to the students or through other cost savings.

Original Signed by P.D. Olafson

Manager of Finance & Administration

4030

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH, AND CONCURRENCE BY:

None

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Department: Transit
Division: Marketing & Customer Service
Prepared by: Barry Strike, Supervisor of Information and Customer Services
File No.