Minute No. 128
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – December 2, 2008

Item No. 1 Future Transit Fares
File TT-2

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That an extension of time of up to 120 days be granted to enable the Winnipeg Public Service to report back as directed by the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on November 4, 2008.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Clement,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 10, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 2, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works submitted the following to Council:

1. That an extension of time of up to 120 days be granted to enable the Winnipeg Public Service to report back as directed by the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on November 4, 2008.

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

On November 4, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works referred the Council Motion of October 22, 2008 to the Winnipeg Public Service for report back.

Further on November 4, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works received submissions in support of the motion on transit fares from the following:

- Emily Ternette, on behalf of Nick Ternette, submitted a copy of the Council Motion of October 22, 2008 and a written presentation.
- Marianne Cerilli, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, submitted communications entitled Poverty Acting Committee/Community Poverty Reduction Strategy Timeline of Events dated October 5, 2005; FastFacts dated September 29, 2005; Fair Fares Fact Sheet dated November 2007; and Municipal Issues dated October 2006 in support of the motion on Transit Fares.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

- Diane Doth, Executive Director, Manitoba Children's Museum, submitted a copy of the Manitoba Children's Museum Free Access Program brochure and School Programs 08/09 booklet.
- Councillor Pagtakhan, Point Douglas Ward, submitted a communication addressed to the committee.

COUNCIL:

On October 22, 2008, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS public transit systems across Canada, including in Winnipeg, are funded by a combination of system-generated revenue, and operating grants from the Province and the City;

AND WHEREAS the costs for key inputs to Winnipeg's transit system, such as fuel costs and vehicle replacement, periodically increase;

AND WHEREAS it is fair and reasonable that transit riders bear a share of these cost increases;

AND WHEREAS public transit represents a vital means of transportation for many Winnipeggers who receive income assistance, enabling them to meet their family obligations and to seek or maintain employment;

AND WHEREAS Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision commits the City to promote equitable access to facilities and services by "ensuring all citizens have access to essential community services and facilities and facilitating access to financial support where there is an inability to pay" (Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision, section 2A-02, ii);

AND WHEREAS a transit system that is accessible to all Winnipeggers is an important contributor to employment and economic opportunity;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Service prepare a report exploring means to link periodic transit fare increases directly and automatically to increases in the costs of key inputs, so that individual fare increases would no longer require separate Council approval;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the report also explore options for providing Winnipeggers below the Low Income Cut Off with transit passes at a more affordable cost, including the provision of a Universal Low Income Transit Pass, and/or "off-peak passes", the latter for use outside peak transit hours.