Agenda - Council – June 24, 2009

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – June 9, 2009

Item No. 2 Post Secondary Student Pass Institution – Eligibility Criteria (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry Ward) eFile TT-2

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 10, 2009, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submits the following to Council:

1. That the eligibility criteria to purchase and use Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Passes be extended to students enrolled full-time in a course of study at a provincially Designated Educational Institution located in Winnipeg that does not require concurrent employment in a position related to the field of study.

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:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 10, 2009, 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 June 9, 2009, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

On February 10, 2009, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works laid the matter over for up to 120 days.

On December 2, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works referred the matter to the Winnipeg Public Service for a review of the existing criteria and report back with a recommendation to its meeting on February 10, 2009.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 25, 2008, the City Centre Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works that the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School be listed as a participating post secondary student pass institution.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ISSUE: **The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School has requested consideration for its Professional Division to be listed as a participating post secondary student pass institution.**

Critical Path: **Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, Executive Policy Committee, Council**

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
Carrie Erickson	Original Signed by Dave Wardrop	M Ruta	G Laubenstein

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the eligibility criteria to purchase and use Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Passes be extended to students enrolled full-time in a course of study at a provincially Designated Educational Institution located in Winnipeg that does not require concurrent employment in a position related to the field of study.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy Implications

( ) No
(X) Yes
Comment(s): The policy on eligibility for the Post Secondary Monthly Bus Pass Program will be amended to include students enrolled full-time in a course of study at a provincially Designated Educational Institution located in Winnipeg that does not require concurrent employment in a position related to the field of study.

Financial Implications

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

Comment(s): It is anticipated that there will be some loss in passenger revenue as some transit users who currently use an adult monthly pass will switch to the less expensive post-secondary monthly pass. However, it is estimated that this will be compensated by new revenues realized from new riders attracted to transit as a result of the extended eligibility of the post-secondary monthly pass.

HISTORY

On October 25, 2008, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) School requested consideration for its Professional Division to be listed as a participating post-secondary student pass institution. On December 2, 2008 the SPC on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works referred the matter to the Winnipeg Public Service for a review of the existing criteria and report back with a recommendation.

DISCUSSION

RWB students are not currently eligible under the existing criteria, outlined in **Appendix I**, to purchase and use the post-secondary monthly bus pass.

RWB School's Professional Division consists of the following three programs that on average have 30 students at the post-secondary level:

1) Ballet Academic Program (Senior Levels) – designed to promote an education in dance and academics.
2) Aspirant Program – designed for advanced level classical ballet dancers who are making the transition from student to professional artist.
3) Teacher Training Program – designed to enrich knowledge and provide the skills required for a career in dance education. The University of Winnipeg (UofW), Faculty of Education recognizes the work completed by graduates of the RWB Teacher Training Program allowing them to designate dance as a teachable minor within a B.ED from the UofW.

RWB School's Fall/Winter session for the full-time program runs from September to June, Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Returning students, in most cases, are also required to attend the Summer Session in July (Monday to Saturday) in addition to the regular session.

RWB School – Professional Division has been approved as a designated educational institution by the Province, meaning that both the school and the program have met the "*Designation Policy*" which includes, but is not limited to:

- being full time;
- being at a post-secondary level;
- leading to a certification, diploma or degree;
- being at least 12 weeks long (within a timeframe of 15 weeks);

and are therefore deemed eligible for government student financial assistance programs.

Expansion of Eligibility Criteria

The RWB School enrolls students from across Canada and around the world who live and study in Winnipeg. If eligibility were extended only to students enrolled in the RWB School – Professional Division, the lost revenue/cost to the City of Winnipeg would be negligible. For reasons of equity, however, it is recommended that eligibility be extended to students enrolled full-time in a course of study at a provincially Designated Educational Institution located in Winnipeg that does not require concurrent employment in a position related to the field of study.

A review of the current list of provincially Designated Educational Institutions identified less than 10 institutions in Winnipeg which were not already eligible to purchase and use post-secondary bus passes based on existing criteria, and who would become eligible as a result of the recommended critieria change. The total number of students enrolled in the newly eligible institutions is estimated to be approximately 160.

Although it is difficult to predict the actual financial impact, an analysis was done based on certain assumptions regarding ridership. It is anticipated that there will be some loss in passenger revenue as some transit users who currently use an adult monthly pass will switch to the less expensive post-secondary monthly pass. However, it is estimated that this will be compensated by new revenues realized from new riders attracted to transit as a result of the extended eligibility of the post-secondary monthly pass.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Project Name:

Participating Post-Secondary Student Pass Institution - Royal Winnipeg Ballet

COMMENTS:

It is anticipated that there will be some loss in passenger revenue as some transit users who currently use an adult monthly pass will switch to the less expensive post-secondary monthly pass. However, it is estimated that this will be compensated by new revenues realized from new riders attracted to transit as a result of the extended eligibility of the post-secondary monthly pass.

Original signed by Carrie Erickson
Carrie Erickson
Acting Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

In preparing this Report there was consultation with:

Royal Winnipeg Ballet School
Manitoba Provincial Student Aid
Manitoba Advanced Education and Literacy

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Transit
Division: Finance and Administration
Prepared by: Carrie Erickson
Date: May 11, 2009
File No.

Appendix I

Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Pass Program Establishment

On May 23, 2001, Council approved the following recommendations:

1. That the Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Pass be made a permanent component of the transit fare structure, effective September 1, 2001;

2. That the Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Pass be priced at 80 percent of the value of the Adult Monthly Bus Pass;

3. That the Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Pass be offered for sale to eligible students during all months of the year;

4. That eligibility to purchase and use the Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Pass be extended to:

    a. Any full-time or part-time student enrolled in credit courses leading to a recognized degree or diploma at any of the following post-secondary institutions;

        i. Universities and colleges in Winnipeg officially recognized by an act of the Manitoba Legislature, including the University of Manitoba, le Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface, the University of Winnipeg, Canadian Mennonite University, Red River College, Winnipeg Technical College, the William and Catherine Booth Bible College and Yellow Quill College.
        ii. Private vocational schools in Winnipeg in possession of a current Certificate of Registration issued by the Department of Education of the Province of Manitoba under the Private Vocational Institutions Act and Manitoba Regulation 237/2002.

    b. Any adult student enrolled in courses leading to a High School diploma at Adult Education Centres operated in Winnipeg by Winnipeg School Division No. 1, St. James-Assiniboia School Division No. 2, Assiniboine South School Division No. 3, St. Boniface School Division No. 4, Fort Garry School Division No. 5, St. Vital School Division No. 6, River East School Division No. 9, Seven Oaks School Division No. 10, Transcona-Springfield School Division No. 12 or la Division scolaire franco-manitobaine no. 49, on condition that:

        1. Any eligible student, when using the pass to pay a transit fare, be required to show a current valid student photo ID card approved for such purpose by the Director of Transit; and
        2. Accredited educational institutions in Winnipeg be required to implement those administrative arrangements deemed reasonable and necessary by the Director of Transit to ensure that the Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Pass is sold only to, and used only by, eligible students.

On February 21, 2007, Council approved the recommendation that the eligibility criteria to purchase and use Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Passes be extended to students enrolled in

English as an Additional Language programs at any institution currently eligible to sell the Post-Secondary Monthly Bus Pass.

Students who are participating in apprenticeship and continuing education programs do not qualify for the Post-Secondary Student Pass.

Canada's
ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET
enriching the human experience

Councillors Bill Clement and Jenny Gerbasi
City Hall, Council Building
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

October 25, 2008

Dear Mr. Clement and Ms Gerbasi,

I am writing to request a meeting with both of you regarding Winnipeg Transit's reduced-price Post-Secondary School Monthly bus pass. I would like the opportunity to host this meeting with yourselves at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet studio building so that you may have an opportunity to observe our post-secondary students at work while we discuss the possibility of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School joining those institutions whose students have been designated as eligible for the Post-Secondary School passes.

Each year the RWB School enjoys enrolment from students who travel to us from across Canada and around the world, who come to live and study in Winnipeg. While the pursuit of classical ballet training must start early in a young dancer's life, a portion of our professional student body is comprised of young adults who have completed their secondary schooling. These young artists are completing their final year(s) of training within our Professional Division's seven-level training program or have joined us within our Aspirant Program, a one to two year program of study that assists dancers who are transitioning into their professional careers and provides them with a home base in Winnipeg while they audition for positions with dance companies around the world. Additionally, we enjoy a vibrant Teacher Training Program that also has a student body who come to us from around the world, relocating to Winnipeg for the three years of study within the TTP while they work towards becoming the next generation of educators to pass on the benefits and love of dance to young students the world over.

All of these students incur great expense in order to come and train with us here in Winnipeg. The opportunity to participate in a discounted bus pass would be hugely significant to them and I appreciate in advance your consideration of this possibility.

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet School is internationally renowned as a training centre of excellence and has been recognized by the Government of Canada as a National Training Institute. The Professional Division has been granted permanent, official-program status by the Province of Manitoba's Department of Education. Our Institute code is DPAJ. The University of Winnipeg Faculty of Education recognizes the work completed by graduates of the Teacher Training Program, allowing them to designate dance as a teachable minor within a B.ED from the U of W. I have enclosed some materials for you that highlight our Professional Division programs further.

380 Graham Avenue | Winnipeg Manitoba Canada | R3C 4K2 | tel: 204.956.0183 | fax: 204.943.1994 | web: www.rwb.org

Please feel free to contact me directly to arrange for a meeting in this regard. Alternatively, I will be in touch with your offices within the next two weeks to hopefully find a suitable time.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Zoerb
Director of School Business Operations

cc: Arlene Minkhorst, School Director; Jeff Herd, RWB Chief Operating Officer; Rosemary Vodrey, Jean Giguere and James Cohen, RWB Board and School Committee members