Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 12, 2018

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – September 7, 2018

Item No. 1 Free Access to all Transit Service for all Armed Forces Veterans and Serving Personnel Annually on Remembrance Day

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the following to Council:

1. That armed forces veterans and current serving personnel be allowed to ride Winnipeg Transit buses (including Handi-Transit service) for free annually on Remembrance Day while wearing a military uniform or presenting a military identification or CF1 card at the time of boarding.

2. That one companion, who is identified as accompanying a veteran or current military personnel at the time of boarding, also be allowed to ride Winnipeg Transit buses (including Handi-Transit service) for free annually on Remembrance Day.

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – September 7, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 7, 2018, 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Free Access to all Transit Service for all Armed Forces Veterans and Serving Personnel Annually on Remembrance Day

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

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
A. Regiec	G. Ewankiw	M. Ruta	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a gesture of respect and acknowledgement of veterans and active military personnel's sacrifice and commitment to our community and to Canada through service in the armed forces, the City of Winnipeg would like to offer them and one companion access to free Transit service annually on Remembrance Day.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That armed forces veterans and current serving personnel be allowed to ride Winnipeg Transit buses (including Handi-Transit service) for free annually on Remembrance Day while wearing a military uniform or presenting a military identification or CF1 card at the time of boarding.

2. That one companion, who is identified as accompanying a veteran or current military personnel at the time of boarding, also be allowed to ride Winnipeg Transit buses (including Handi-Transit service) for free annually on Remembrance Day.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

At its meeting of December 13, 2017, City Council requested the Public Service to review the provision of free bus rides for veterans on Remembrance Day and report back to Council in time for implementation on Remembrance Day in 2018.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The total cost associated with the provision of free bus rides to veterans and military personnel on Remembrance Day is estimated to be $12,482 and will be accommodated within the Department's current annual operating budget.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In response to public inquiries, the City of Winnipeg offered free Transit service on Saturday, November 11th, 2017 to Armed Forces veterans, active duty personnel and their accompanying family or friends provided they were in military uniform or presenting a CF1 card or military identification. The total usage was approximately 200 free rides.

Many Canadian cities provide free bus service annually on Remembrance Day to any armed forces veteran, current serving personnel and a companion. Generally, the eligibility criteria applied by other Transit properties is the wearing of military uniform or presentation of veteran/forces identification.

An administrative review of other transit properties policies is summarized in the following table:

Transit Property	Fare Media	Qualification
Halifax Transit	Free Ride	Veterans or military personnel wishing to use the free transit service on Remembrance Day are to be in uniform or display their military identification upon boarding. This fare offer extends to Halifax Transit buses and harbour ferry services, as well as registered Access-A-Bus users.
Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)	Free Ride	Veterans of war and peacekeeping missions can ride the TTC system free of charge on Warriors Day and Remembrance Day. The TTC requires Canadian war veterans and peacekeepers to show their service medals or ribbons to receive free access to buses, streetcars, subways and the Scarborough rapid transit line. A companion may ride free as well.
York Regional Transit (YRT)	Free Ride	Veterans and one companion may ride free on Remembrance Day, Veteran's Day and Warriors' Day. Uniforms or medals must be worn when boarding YRT buses.
Mississauga Transit (MiWay)	Free Ride	Veterans and one companion may ride free on Warriors' Day and Remembrance Day. Uniforms or medals must be worn when boarding MiWay buses.
Hamilton Street Railway (HSR)	Free Ride	Free transportation on HSR buses is offered Veterans in full uniform on Remembrance Day.
Calgary Transit	Free Ride	Veterans and accompanying family members may ride free on Remembrance Day. Uniforms or veteran identification must be visible when boarding buses and the C-Train.
Translink (Vancouver)	Free Ride	Serving members and veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces along with members of the Police, Fire and Paramedic Services may board buses, SeaBus, Skytrain and the Canada Line for free in Uniform or displaying an appropriate identification card on Remembrance Day.

Statistics Canada estimates that there are 21,500 veterans in Manitoba, with approximately 12,000 in the City of Winnipeg. The Royal Canadian Air Force's 1st Canadian Air Division Headquarters in Winnipeg has approximately 600 active serving regular and reserve members.

In 2017, less than 1% of the eligible personnel took advantage of the free access to Transit service. It is estimated that with more communication that this would increase. Assuming this increased to 5%, it is estimated that approximately 1,260 veterans, current military and companions would take advantage of annual offer of free access to transit service on November 11th. The annual cost of providing this program which includes lost revenue, the cost of advertising and Handi-Transit contract services is estimated to be $12,482.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: March 7, 2018

Project Name:

First Year of Program **2018**

Free Access to all Transit Service for all Armed Forces Veterans and Serving Personnel Annually on Remembrance Day

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 5,678	$ 5,791	$ 5,907	$ 6,025	$ 6,146
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	(6,804)	(6,940)	(7,079)	(7,220)	(7,365)
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 12,482	$ 12,731	$ 12,986	$ 13,245	$ 13,511
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	12,482	12,731	12,986	13,245	13,511
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Costs include advertising expenses, Handi-Transit contract services and estimated lost revenue. Assumed uptake of the program at 5% of total eligible military personal in Winnipeg and all would travel with a companion. Lost fares estimated assuming that customers would be evenly split between full fare and senior rates. All costs adjusted for annual inflation factor. The net cost would be absorbed within the Department's existing approved operating budget.

original signed by

Laurie Fisher, CPA, CA

Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Transit
Division: Operations
Prepared by: Alex Regiec, Operations Planner
Date: March 7, 2018