**Agenda – Council – September 20, 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**

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 12, 2018, 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:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 12, 2018, 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 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