Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 19, 2019

BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 14 2019 Transit Fare Freeze

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the matter as information.

(See Budget Review Item 22)

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
That the matter be received as information.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On December 13, 2018, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Chief Financial Officer be directed to freeze Winnipeg Transit fares at 2018 levels starting January 1, 2019 for a period of one calendar year and include this fare freeze in the 2019 Budget process.

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

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 5, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS access to affordable public transportation is good for Winnipeggers;

AND WHEREAS Council has kept Winnipeg Transit fares amongst the lowest in the country despite ongoing budgetary challenges;

AND WHEREAS last year, based on information provided at the time, Council made the difficult decision to raise fares by 25 cents to cover a projected revenue shortfall faced by Winnipeg Transit;

AND WHEREAS, according to the Financial Status Report and Forecast to September 30, 2018, Winnipeg Transit is projecting an operating surplus of $7.9 million for the 2018 fiscal year, which may be used to mitigate cost pressures faced by Winnipeg Transit in 2019;

AND WHEREAS this operating surplus is partly due to ridership stabilizing in 2018 compared to 2017;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg Transit fares have customarily increased by at least 5 cents annually to cover inflationary increases incurred by Winnipeg Transit;

AND WHEREAS, according to Section 3(1) and Section 3(1)(a) of the Fees and Charges By-law, the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to increase annually any fee imposed by the City of Winnipeg by an amount equal to or less than the rate of inflation unless a Council resolution specifically states otherwise;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct the Chief Financial Officer to freeze Winnipeg Transit fares at 2018 levels starting January 1, 2019 for a period of one calendar year and include this fare freeze in the 2019 Budget process.