Minute No. 756
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – October 12, 2021

Item No. 2 Changes to the Low-Income Transit Pass Policy for Not-for-Profit Agencies

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consider the following during its update to the Poverty Reduction Strategy:

    A. Changes to the low-income bus pass policy to allow not for profit agencies/organizations to qualify people living in poverty for a low-income bus pass purchase in the same fashion as agencies working with immigrants.

2. 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 – October 12, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

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

Carried

Councillor Orlikow was absent from the vote on the above motion.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2021, 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 October 12, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works considered the Council Motion of September 29, 2021, and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consider the following during its update to the Poverty Reduction Strategy:

    A. Changes to the low-income bus pass policy to allow not for profit agencies/organizations to qualify people living in poverty for a low-income bus pass purchase in the same fashion as agencies working with immigrants.

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

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 29, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – October 12, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

Moved by Councillor Santos,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS Winnipeg Transit's low-income bus pass policy qualifies new immigrants for a pass by utilizing an agency/organization who work with immigrants trying to get established in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS many people living in poverty do not necessarily file income taxes especially when they are young adults or older teenagers;

AND WHEREAS people without homes often couch surf and use relatives' addresses to establish themselves in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the policy idea that someone living in poverty outside of Winnipeg would want to fake an address in the city to allow themselves to buy a low-income bus pass they can barely afford is ridiculous;

AND WHEREAS there are many not for profit organizations working with people living in poverty trying to assist those who are trying to get established and become employed to alleviate the poverty such as the North End Community Renewal Corporation, St. Boniface Street Links, women centres, and Main Street Project;

AND WHEREAS many First Nations entities assist persons who are indigenous get established in Winnipeg's urban environment so they can avoid living in poverty and live in safe homes;

AND WHEREAS all these reliable agencies/organizations can lift the administrative burden off of Winnipeg Transit by vouching that the persons they are working with are living in poverty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Winnipeg Transit change the low income bus pass policy to allow not for profit agencies/organizations to qualify people living in poverty for a low income bus pass purchase in the same fashion as agencies working with immigrants.