Minute No. 805
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – September 7, 2022

Item No. 6 Free Transit on Orange Shirt Day

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be referred to the 2023 Budget Review Process, namely:

    A. That Council approve free bus fare on all routes on Orange Shirt Day, September 30, 2022.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committeebe adopted.

Carried

David Grant submitted a submission in opposition to the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 14, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be referred to the 2023 Budget Review Process, namely:

    A. That Council approve free bus fare on all routes on Orange Shirt Day, September 30, 2022.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 7, 2022, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Meagan Boles, Manager of Planning, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, WSP, submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 2, 2022, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee passed the following motion:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

WHEREAS Orange Shirt Day is a national holiday of significance similar to Remembrance Day given the senseless death of indigenous kids and the need for reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS Wa-Say Healing Centre is asking City Council to support the Survivors Walk from Oodena Circle at the Forks to the RBC Convention Centre for the 2nd Annual Orange Shirt Day Pow Wow by providing free bus fare and parking for the participants and organizers;

AND WHEREAS the First Annual Orange Shirt Day Pow Wow attracted 15,000 to 20,000 indigenous and non-indigenous people to St. John's Park's Healing Forest in support of "Every Child Matters";

AND WHEREAS despite a projected $10.5 million shortfall in 2022 operating budget for Winnipeg Transit, the Transit projected cash, e-cash, ticket and Transit Plus fares of $120,000.00 revenue loss due to free bus fare on all routes for Orange Shirt Day is insignificant compared to the horrors indigenous children faced in residential schools, and remembering all the death of indigenous peoples across Canada in the century before residential schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lord Selkirk – West Kildonan Community Committee recommend to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works:

1. That Council approve free bus fare on all routes on Orange Shirt Day, September 30, 2022.

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