Minute No. 517
Minutes – Council – September 25, 2025

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – September 11, 2025

Item No. 2 Waiver of Transit Fares – Value in Kind Events for Major Special Events including the 2025 Grey Cup

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That individuals displaying proof of being a volunteer with the 2025 Grey Cup as approved by the Director of Transit be exempt from the operation of subsection 5(1) of the Public Transit By-Law for the duration of the 2025 Grey Cup scheduled events (currently scheduled for November 13-16, 2025).

2. That individuals displaying proof of being a paid attendee of the 2025 Grey Cup as approved by the Director of Transit be exempt from the operation of subsection 5(1) of the Public Transit By-Law for the duration of the day of the 2025 Grey Cup game (currently scheduled for November 16, 2025).

3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Transit to exempt individuals or groups from the operation of subsection 5(1) of the Public Transit By-Law for future Major Special Events where:

    A. Council has approved a VIK Grant for the Major Special Event;

    B. the exemption is required for the operation or execution of the approved VIK Grant for the Major Special Event; and

    C. the exemption does not result in the total contribution value of the approved VIK Grant being exceeded.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – September 11, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 16, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 11, 2025, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

David Grant submitted a communication in opposition to the matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Waiver of Transit Fares – Value in Kind Events for Major Special Events including the 2025 Grey Cup

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Public Works - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
Rick Young/Laurie Fisher	Greg Ewankiw	T. Graham	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Winnipeg Football Club (WFC) has requested that Transit provide regular transit service to 2025 Grey Cup volunteers and Grey Cup ticket holders provided they meet the identification requirements as approved by the Director of Transit. For the volunteers, this will likely include presentation of their volunteer identification and that they be in uniform. For Grey Cup ticket holders, this will likely require presentation of their Grey Cup ticket.

The volunteers would be given free Transit services for the duration of the Grey Cup events currently scheduled to run November 13-16, 2025. The Grey Cup ticket holders would be given free Transit services for game day only, currently scheduled for November 16, 2025.

The related lost fare revenue, estimated to be $19,825, falls under the provisions of the value-in-kind (VIK) agreement between the City and WFC and is within the total contribution amount of the VIK grant approved by Council on January 29, 2025. No new funding is required.

Going forward, the Department is recommending Council delegate authority to exempt individuals or groups from the fare requirements in the Public Transit By-law to the Director, where that exemption is specifically related to an event with an approved VIK grant for a Major Special Event. The feasibility and appropriateness of providing free Transit service related to these events would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That individuals displaying proof of being a volunteer with the 2025 Grey Cup as approved by the Director of Transit be exempt from the operation of subsection 5(1) of the Public Transit By-Law for the duration of the 2025 Grey Cup scheduled events (currently scheduled for November 13-16, 2025).

2. That individuals displaying proof of being a paid attendee of the 2025 Grey Cup as approved by the Director of Transit be exempt from the operation of subsection 5(1) of

the Public Transit By-Law for the duration of the day of the 2025 Grey Cup game (currently scheduled for November 16, 2025).

3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Transit to exempt individuals or groups from the operation of subsection 5(1) of the Public Transit By-Law for future Major Special Events where:

   A. Council has approved a VIK Grant for the Major Special Event;

   B. the exemption is required for the operation or execution of the approved VIK Grant for the Major Special Event; and

   C. the exemption does not result in the total contribution value of the approved VIK Grant being exceeded.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required to provide an exemption from the requirement to pay Transit fares under the Public Transit By-Law.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Transit fare will not be required for Grey Cup volunteers and paid ticket holders during the timelines described in the recommendations. The Director will authorize evidence that must be provided or displayed to qualify for the exemption in accordance with 5(2) of the Public Transit By-law. The value of the lost Transit fares will be included in the value-in-kind grant amount.

Going forward, the authority to approve exemptions such that the free Transit service can be provided for a Major Special Event will be delegated to the Director of Transit in accordance with the criteria stated in recommendation 3.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On January 29, 2025, as part of the 2025 Adopted Operating Budget, Council approved the value-in-kind (VIK) grant for the 2025 Grey Cup in the amount of a $600,000 cash grant and a $550,000 grant for in-kind services. The amount for in-kind services represents the total funding available to provide City services to support this event.

2025 Grey Cup events are planned for November 13-16, 2025, with the game itself happening on November 16, 2025. The Winnipeg Football Club relies heavily on volunteers to execute this event, and providing transportation for them to get to and from their assignments is an important part of the 2025 Grey Cup plans. For Grey Cup ticket holders, being able to use their tickets to access Transit services free of charge is beneficial as many are from out of town, and this simplifies the process for them and for bus operators. Providing this service under the VIK agreement is beneficial to both groups throughout the event.

Individuals will need to present acceptable identification as approved by the Director of Transit in order to be provided with free Transit services. For the Grey Cup 2025 volunteers this will likely include presentation of their volunteer identification and that they be in uniform. For Grey Cup ticket holders this will likely require presentation of their Grey Cup ticket.

Transit estimates the lost revenue associated with providing free transit service to volunteers and Grey Cup ticket holders will be approximately $19,825. This amount will be funded through the Council-approved VIK grant.

Going forward, the Public Service recommends Council delegate authority to exempt individuals or groups from the fare requirements in the Public Transit By-law to the Director, where that exemption is specifically related to an event with an approved VIK grant for a Major Special Event.

The feasibility and appropriateness of providing free Transit service related to these events would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: August 8, 2025

Project Name:

Waiver of Transit Fares – Value in Kind Events for Major Special Events including the 2025 Grey Cup

First Year of Program **2025**

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
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	$ 19,825	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 19,825	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	19,825	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Direct costs reflect the estimated lost fare revenue from providing free Transit service to approved individuals as described in the report for the 2025 Grey Cup. These costs will be funded by the Council approved value-in-kind grant amount which has been allocated for this event.

Any estimated lost Transit fares from future events which meet all the stated criteria this report will be within the grant amount allocated for that event.

Laurie Fisher August 8, 2025

Laurie Fisher, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Economic Prosperity – Optimize Facility Access (3.16) – Maximize the use of existing municipal assets to promote recreation, community development and social interaction.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Transit
Division: Operations/Finance and Administration
Prepared by: Lionel Barkman, Operations Planner
Laurie Fisher, Manager of Finance and Administration
Date: August 8, 2025
File No: N/A