Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – April 15, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Grant for Canadian Urban Transit Association Fall 2026 Conference

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement with the Canadian Urban Transit Association and/or such other agreements as determine necessary by the City Solicitor/Department of Legal Services (the "Ancillary Agreements") to provide the following for the Fall 2026 CUTA Annual Conference and Transit Show:

    A. Cash contribution of up to $23,000;

    B. Free transportation services to CUTA conference attendees for the duration of the conference (estimated value $8,370);

    C. Free charter transportation services for CUTA conference attendees for conference technical tours and reception events for the duration of the conference (estimated value $5,500); and

    D. Promotional and other supporting materials for the CUTA conference (estimated value $8,130).

2. That individuals with acceptable proof of being an attendee of the 2026 CUTA conference as approved by the Director of Transit, be exempt from the operation of subsection 5(1) of the Public Transit By-law No. 89/2014 for the duration of the conference (currently scheduled for November 15-18, 2026).

3. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the contribution agreement with the Canadian Urban Transit Association and the Ancillary Agreements in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Chambers,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Grant for Canadian Urban Transit Association Fall 2026 Conference

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

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
L. Fisher	G. Ewankiw	T. Graham	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) will host its Fall 2026 conference in Winnipeg from November 15-18, 2026. The City has been asked to contribute $23,000 in cash. It has also been asked to provide in-kind support. Examples include: free transit for attendees; bus charter services; and promotional help. The total estimated value of the cash and in-kind contributions is $45,000.

The conference is expected to attract more than 500 attendees and exhibitors. It will feature sessions and a large trade show. The trade show often includes more than a dozen buses on display. Hosting this conference will benefit the city economically and promote the City across Canada. As a CUTA member, all municipalities are expected to host one of their annual conferences on a rotating basis.

Transit will re-prioritize its spending plans in the 2026 operating budget including the usual travel costs spent sending staff to the CUTA conference to fit this grant within the current budget. However, it's important to note that Transit faces operating budget risks related to fare revenue and workers' compensation costs, as noted in the 2026 budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement with the Canadian Urban Transit Association and/or such other agreements as determine necessary by the City Solicitor/Department of Legal Services (the "Ancillary Agreements") to provide the following for the Fall 2026 CUTA Annual Conference and Transit Show:

    A. Cash contribution of up to $23,000;
    B. Free transportation services to CUTA conference attendees for the duration of the conference (estimated value $8,370);
    C. Free charter transportation services for CUTA conference attendees for conference technical tours and reception events for the duration of the conference (estimated value $5,500); and

D. Promotional and other supporting materials for the CUTA conference (estimated value $8,130).

2. That individuals with acceptable proof of being an attendee of the 2026 CUTA conference as approved by the Director of Transit, be exempt from the operation of subsection 5(1) of the Public Transit By-law No. 89/2014 for the duration of the conference (currently scheduled for November 15-18, 2026).

3. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the contribution agreement with the Canadian Urban Transit Association and the Ancillary Agreements in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council authority is required to approve the contribution agreement with CUTA and exempt operation of 5(1) of the Public Transit By-law No. 89/2014.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding for the recommendations will be accommodated within the existing 2026 Transit operating budget by re-prioritizing planned spending, including the amount normally incurred in travel costs from sending staff to the CUTA conference.

It is important to recognize that Transit has operational risk related to fare revenue as was included in the 2026 operating budget documents and it is very probable that the department will be in deficit position at the end of the year.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) is the oldest and largest public transit association in Canada. It has been in existence since 1904. The transit companies and agencies that have operated in Winnipeg have been members throughout much of its history.

Members of CUTA include nearly every transit agency in Canada, as well as governments, non-profits, and private businesses such as vehicle manufacturers, industry suppliers, and engineering, planning, and economic consultants. CUTA produces research and statistics that are vital to all transit agencies in Canada, and provides a professional network for learning, professional development, and the creation of best practices.

Winnipeg Transit has acted as the host transit agency for the CUTA Spring Summit several times, most recently in 2015. This year will mark the first time Winnipeg will host the CUTA Annual Conference & Transit Expo, which generally brings well over 500 attendees and exhibitors to the host city. This is Winnipeg's first opportunity to host the larger of the two CUTA

conferences. Previously, Winnipeg did not have convention facilities large enough for the Transit Expo trade show, which often has over a dozen buses on display.

By hosting the 2026 CUTA Fall Conference & Transit Expo, Winnipeg will be able to showcase the city, specifically the transportation and urban infrastructure, and the transit operations that are vital to making Winnipeg function. The economic benefit from hosting a conference in Winnipeg includes direct visitor spending in hotel stays, restaurants, booking venues and other related retail and entertainment. There are also indirect benefits including destination marketing for the City as both a tourist and business-friendly location. As a member of CUTA, it is expected that all municipalities host one of their annual conferences on a rotating basis.

As the host city, Winnipeg has been asked to contribute monetary and in-kind amounts to support the conference including a cash amount ($23,000), the provision of transit service for attendees to ride Transit for free for the duration of the conference (estimated value of $8,370), charter services to provide transportation to conference technical tours and reception events (estimated value of $5,500), and promotional/other (estimated value of $8,130). The total value of both cash and in-kind contribution is estimated to be $45,000.

In order to be provided with free Transit service, attendees to the conference will need to present acceptable identification as approved by the Director of Transit. The free Transit service would be offered for the duration of the conference which is currently scheduled to be held November 15-18, 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: February 23, 2026

Project Name:
Grant for CUTA Fall 2026 Conference

First Year of Program **2026**

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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	$ 45,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 45,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	45,000	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

The total direct costs reflect the value of the cash contribution and in-kind amounts to support hosting the 2026 CUTA conference. The Department will re-prioritize operating items to accommodate these expenses within existing budget amounts including the amount normally incurred in the travel costs from sending staff to this conference.

However, it is important to note that Transit has a significant operating risk for 2026 as was included as part of the 2026 Adopted Operating Budget and it is likely the Department will incur a deficit this year.

Laurie Fisher February 23, 2026

Laurie Fisher, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administration

CONSULTATION

This report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

03-16 Optimize Facility Access: Maximize the use of existing municipal assets to promote recreation, community development, and social interaction while optimizing equitable access, infrastructure reinvestments, service delivery methods and resource management.

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 hat 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 hat the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Transit
Division: Finance and Administration
Prepared by: Laurie Fisher, Manager of Finance and Administration
Date: March 5, 2026