

Tepper, Alyssa TRAN:EX

From: Malinowski, Penny TRAN:EX
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 4:43 PM
To: Chapotelle, Jacqueline TRAN:EX; Harder, Derrick AG:EX; Perry, Alisma, MCF:EX; Jackson, Lindsey B TRAN:EX
Cc: Lewthwaite, Jennifer TRAN:EX; Plamondon, Lea TRAN:EX; Hold - 180529 - Gordon, Renee TRAN:EX; Malinowski, Penny TRAN:EX; Stone, Lynne TRAN:EX; Westgate, Rachael TRAN:EX; Verwoord, Cindy TRAN:EX
Subject: Cliff #274667 | MCT MEETING MATERIAL: U-Pass BC Update | Mtg Date: February 27, 2018



Good afternoon,

Please find attached Information Briefing Note for the following:

CLIFF #:	274667
MCT Meeting w/:	Silas Brownsey, Andrea Mercer, Linda Harman
Issue / Topic:	U-Pass BC Update
Meeting Date:	February 27, 2018
Time:	3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Location:	Room 306
Staff Support:	N/A

IMPORTANT

Please note that the IBN is uploaded in MCT's SharePoint

Thank you,

Penny

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BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

DATE: February 23, 2018
PREPARED FOR: Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
MEETING: 02/27/2018
ISSUE: U-Pass BC Update

SUMMARY:

In 2016, in recognition of TransLink's fare policy review and the U-Pass BC survey, the province agreed to extend the existing agreement with TransLink, which froze the monthly student fee at \$41, until the end of December 2019. Concurrently, Treasury Board provided approval for a maximum annual contribution to TransLink of \$12 million for the U-Pass BC program to cover this extension.

The province is working with a delegated representative group from the U-Pass BC Advisory Committee (UAC) to develop terms for a long-term U-Pass BC program. The length of the term has not been determined but all parties agree that there is merit in having a term greater than the standard two year agreement.

TransLink is conducting a fare policy review which may present new opportunities for public post-secondary students and the U-Pass BC program. The results of the TransLink fare review will be available in the spring of 2018. It is anticipated that new fare media products will be proposed and one or more may be of interest to the UAC.

BC Stats will conduct an on-line survey of Metro Vancouver public post-secondary students and graduates for the purpose of understanding if the U-Pass BC program has created a preference for transit. The survey is currently being conducted, and it will run for 6 weeks. The BC Stats U-Pass BC survey report will be available in June 2018.

Once TransLink presents fare product options, one of which may be a monthly pass, discussions can take place regarding elements of the U-Pass program including: term, student eligibility, monthly fee and basis for increasing the student fee.

BACKGROUND:

- Prior to 2010 there were multiple Universal Pass (U-Pass) programs for public post-secondary students. Pass prices varied from institution to institution.
- In 2010, Metro Vancouver public post-secondary institutions agreed to work together and have a common agreement with TransLink. This resulted in all participating institutions and student associations collecting the same mandatory monthly U-Pass BC fee from eligible students. Students vote in referenda on the mandatory fee and the term of the agreement.
- The province agreed to provide TransLink with an annual contribution of \$11 million to help offset lost fare revenue for seats taken by U-Pass BC riders that would have otherwise been used by full-paying passengers.

- The program was renewed in 2013 for an additional three years (to April 2016), again in 2016 for an additional two years (to April 2018) and in 2017 for 20 months (to December 31, 2019) with the province committing a maximum of \$12M per year. Since 2010, the province has contributed over \$85 million to the U-Pass BC program.
- The student rate for U-Pass BC started at \$30 per month in 2010 and has increased nominally over the last seven years to \$41 per month in April 2018. A 3-zone Adult TransLink pass is currently \$172 per month, providing U-Pass BC holders with a saving of \$131 per month. In July 2018, the TransLink Adult monthly pass will increase to \$174 and to \$177 in 2019, while the U-Pass BC pass remains at \$41.
- In 2016, 132,000 public post-secondary students in Metro Vancouver were eligible for U-Pass BC. This represents about 85 percent of the student population at the participating institutions. U-Pass BC students accounted for 30.8 million TransLink journeys, or 13% of TransLink's passenger journeys.
- Participating Metro Vancouver public post-secondary institutions:
 - University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Capilano University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Langara College, Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology's campus in Burnaby and British Columbia Institute of Technology. The Native Education College, which operates from the Vancouver Community College, was added to the program in September 2015. The Justice Institute of British Columbia is unable to participate due to its lack of a student association.
- U-Pass BC is a mandatory program. The students' association at each participating public post-secondary institution are responsible for administering the eligibility criteria and responding to misuse of the U-Pass. ^{s.16}
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- Currently, U-Pass BC pass holders primarily use the U-Pass Monday through Friday. The BC Stats survey may provide insight into the significantly lower use of the U-Pass on weekends.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education occasionally receives inquiries from British Columbia post-secondary students enrolled at institutions outside of Metro Vancouver who are taking courses at one of the U-Pass BC institutions. Since these students are not members of the student association where they are taking courses, they are not eligible for U-Pass BC.
- British Columbia is the only provincial government in Canada that subsidizes a U-Pass program. Outside of Metro Vancouver, public post-secondary institutions and local governments determine the fee for a U-Pass, which is accepted by BC Transit.

DISCUSSION:

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- TransLink's Fare Policy Review, and its extensive public engagement, has raised awareness about transit fares in Metro Vancouver. ^{s.13}
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

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Appendix 1: U-Pass BC Long –Term Program Development Timeline (Draft)

PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

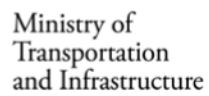
Andrea Mercer, A/Executive Director
Transit Branch
Silas Brownsey, ADM
Partnerships Department
Nancy Bain, EFO
Finance and Management Services Department

INITIALS

AM

SB

NB



	ACTIVITY	BEGINNING	END	RESPONSIBILITY
2018	s.13			
	s.12			
2019	s.13			