



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-003

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Sheila Kidd, Director of Transportation Services

DATE OF MEETING: March 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Universal Transit Pass Agreement with the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report recommends the continuance of a long-standing relationship with the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of Queen's University to provide universal access to Kingston Transit services for Queen's University students.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University, to the satisfaction of Legal Services, to provide a Universal Transit Pass for the period of September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012 in the amount of \$835,000.

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AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability & Growth</i>	N/R
Lanie Hurdle, <i>Community Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

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OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

Kingston Transit and the AMS have partnered since 1990 on tuition-based transit pass program commonly known as "Bus-It".

The Bus-It program gives all full-time Queen's University students who hold a valid student card, unlimited access to Kingston Transit's regular fixed route system. Kingston was one of the first municipalities in Canada to introduce a universal program for post-secondary students. Many transit systems across Canada now provide similar programs.

The previous five-year agreement with the AMS expired on August 31, 2011. Staff have been in negotiations with the AMS since the expiry date to discuss terms and conditions for a new agreement. Despite a desire by both parties to enter into an agreement for a period of at least three years, the timing of the AMS student fee by-laws and fee review process does not allow the AMS to enter into a term of greater than one year at this time. Therefore, the new agreement recommended in this report is for a one-year period from September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012. It is expected that subsequent agreements will be for a period of greater than one year.

The following is a summary of the terms and conditions of the proposed contract:

- A contract value of \$835,000, payable in monthly installments. This represents a 7.7% increase compared to the final year of the previous contract. The average annual increase in the previous contract was only 2.9%. This significant year-over-year increase reflects the strong partnership with AMS and their commitment to ensure that the transit service is funded at an appropriate level to meet their current and future needs.
- Full-time undergraduate and graduate students have universal access. Part-time students and staff of Queen's University are not covered by the agreement. This is consistent with the previous agreement.
- Students must present a valid student card to a bus operator for the current academic year to access the transit service. This is consistent with the previous agreement.
- Kingston Transit will provide a late night shuttle (Route 17) during the academic year when classes are in session and a bus route (Route 18) between the housing areas of Queen's University and the train/bus station. While these routes are funded by the AMS contract, any other Kingston Transit passenger who pays the regular fare can use these routes. This is the same level of service provided for in the previous agreement.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

The previous agreement with the AMS expired on August 31, 2011.

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NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The contract value of \$835,000 will be payable in monthly installments. The AMS has continued to make monthly payments since August 31, 2011 based on the previous contract value. Once a new agreement is executed, the AMS will make retroactive payments from September 2011 to present at the new contract value. The contract value is in line with the 2012 operating budget and the budget projections in the Kingston Transit Redevelopment Plan.

CONTACTS:

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OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Alan McLeod, Senior Legal Counsel

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A