



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** General Committee

**From:** Ilmar Simanovskis, Commissioner, Municipal Operations

**Meeting Date:** March 10, 2025

**Report:** Renewal of Trent University Universal Bus Pass Funding Agreement, Report MOTR25-001

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## **Subject**

A report to recommend signing of a renewal agreement between the City and Trent Central Student Association.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report MOTR25-001, dated March 10, 2025, of the Commissioner, Municipal Operations as follows:

That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the renewal agreement with the Trent Central Student Association for the continuation of the Universal Transit Pass Agreement substantially in the form as attached in Appendix A and on terms satisfactory to the Commissioner, Municipal Operations, in forms acceptable to the City Solicitor.

## **Background**

### **Trent University Transit Agreement**

Peterborough Transit has had a longstanding and successful Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) arrangement with the Trent Central Student Association (TCSA). The U-Pass is forecast to generate approximately \$2.8 million in operating revenue for 2025, which represents approximately 36% of the total fare revenues collected and generates about 1.35 million rides per year or 31% of the total annual ridership.

The agreement is effective from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027 with the option to extend the agreement for two additional one-year extensions ending August 31, 2029. Services are continuing in the interim period until final agreement execution and as has been agreed to with TCSA and the City.

Through the arrangement with TCSA, the TCSA collects the fees from the student participants and administers the pass program. These collected fees are then transferred to the City in exchange for the enhanced transit service delivery to the University campus.

Trent University and Transit staff work collaboratively to develop service plans for each semester to both meet the needs of students and that can be supported operationally by Transit operations.

Peterborough Transit can offer two express routes that serve the University, along with other special services tailored to serve student events, exam schedules, and convocation ceremonies as part of the agreement. Residents are also able to use these services through the regular fare payment program. Service delivered to Trent is billed on a percentage basis in accordance with the agreement and is invoiced three times per year, following each semester.

### **U-Pass Program Benefits**

The City benefits from the additional ridership that is generated from the U-Pass program in the following ways:

- The increased ridership significantly contributes to the City's Transportation Master Plan goal of increasing transit use from 4% of peak period travel to 6% of peak period travel by 2051. Providing a service that is convenient for students is a proven way of building ridership patterns that can last beyond their student years.
- The ability to reduce auto travel demand to and from Symons Campus at Trent University, has helped to limit the growth in traffic on area roads such as Water Street and Armour Road and continued growth in ridership on these routes can

help to avoid or defer costly capital improvements to widen roads in the future or additional student parking facilities within the campus.

- Shifting students from auto modes of travel and increasing the share of student trips, made by transit, can also play a noteworthy role in meeting the Community Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction targets outlined in the City's Climate Change Action Plan.
- The introduction of stable sources of revenue for Peterborough Transit can allow for service delivery to be enhanced to the benefit of all residents without increasing the tax burden, and can allow for existing service delivery and resources to be allocated where they best meet service needs without adding to operating budgets.

## **Strategic Plan**

Strategic Pillar: Governance & Fiscal Sustainability

Strategic Priority: Support a culture of continuous improvement, safety, and innovation to enhance cost effective delivery of City's programs and services.

The agreements with TCSA allows the City to leverage our transit assets and encourages the effective use of public transit while mitigating increases in traffic generation thereby reducing our environmental impact and increasing operational efficiency.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

The 2025 revenue forecast from the TSCA is anticipated to be approximately \$2.8 million.

## **Conclusion**

The post-secondary U-Pass agreements with TCSA represent an important source of fare revenue for Peterborough Transit. This agreement is being renewed to allow for continued partnership that benefits both the community and the City in its roles in providing transit services.

Submitted by,

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