



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 21-169**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works
Resource Staff: Jeremy DaCosta, Director, Transit Services
Date of Meeting: July 13, 2021
Subject: Kingston Transit – 2021-2022 Post-Secondary Student Transit Pass

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Policies & by-laws

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

The contract agreements between the City of Kingston and the student associations at Queen's University and St. Lawrence College providing students with universal access to Kingston Transit were jointly terminated on June 1, 2020 as a result of the impacts related to COVID-19. A new post-secondary transit pass was established for the 2020-2021 academic year to provide eligible post-secondary students with an option to purchase 4-month (term) transit passes at a cost of \$119 per term.

In August 2020, Council directed staff to continue to work collaboratively with the Alma Mater Society at Queen's University (AMS) and the Student Association of St. Lawrence College (SA) regarding access to Kingston Transit for the 2021-2022 academic year and report back to Council no later than July 2021.

This report provides an update and recommends the continuation of a post-secondary student pass at a cost of \$119 per term for the 2021-2022 academic year.

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Recommendation:

That the post-secondary transit pass established for the 2020-2021 academic year continue for the 2021-2022 academic year at the same cost of \$119 per term for eligible students; and

That staff be directed to continue to work collaboratively with the Alma Mater Society at Queen's University and the Student Association of St. Lawrence College and report back to Council no later than July 2022, prior to the 2022-2023 academic year, regarding access to Kingston Transit for post-secondary students.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Sheila Kidd, Commissioner,
Transportation & Public Works**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects	Not required
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

Prior to COVID-19, the City had contract agreements with the AMS and SA to provide all eligible students with universal, unlimited access to Kingston Transit in exchange for students paying a mandatory student fee. Those contract agreements were jointly terminated on June 1, 2020 as a result of the impacts related to COVID-19.

A new post-secondary transit pass was established for the 2020-2021 academic year to provide eligible post-secondary students with an option to purchase 4-month (term) transit passes at a cost of \$119 per term. The cost of \$119 per term was established based on the equivalent cost of a youth affordable transit pass (\$29.75 per month).

Staff have continued to have discussions with the AMS and SA regarding transit options for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year. Through those discussions, the City and the student associations have agreed, subject to Council approval, to continue with the option of a 4-month (term) transit passes at a cost of \$119 per term for the 2021-2022 academic year. Although a return to in-person, on-campus learning is anticipated, it is difficult to re-establish contract agreements on the basis of a mandatory student fee for transit access when student travel needs are not completely understood at this time.

Post-secondary students will continue to access transit using a virtual transit card that was introduced for the 2020-2021 academic year. The pass will be available for purchase on the City's website using a debit or credit card. The virtual transit card will be used as validation of payment when a student boards a Kingston Transit bus. Alternate fare payment options will be made available for any students unable to make payment for their pass online or unable to access their virtual transit card on a mobile device. The pass will be considered non-refundable except in extenuating circumstances where a student withdraws from the educational institution they are attending. In such a case, the cost of the pass will be partially refunded on a pro-rated basis. Staff will work closely with each of the student associations to communicate information regarding the post-secondary transit pass to students prior to September 2021.

There continues to be a shared desire and willingness by the City and the student associations to re-establish an arrangement that ensures as many students as possible have access to transit service once the circumstances related to COVID-19 are resolved and there is more clarity regarding student travel needs. Staff will continue to meet with the student associations and report back to Council no later than July 2022 regarding transit access for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

By-Law Number 2005-10 'A By-Law To Establish Fees And Charges To Be Collected By The Corporation Of The City Of Kingston'

Notice Provisions:

None

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Accessibility Considerations:

Post-secondary students purchasing a post-secondary pass will access Kingston Transit using an online platform on their mobile device. Kingston Transit will continue to make alternative fare payment options available to persons with disabilities who cannot, because of their disability, use the online platform.

Financial Considerations:

The approved 2021 operating budget assumed the continuation of the 4-month (term) transit pass at a cost of \$119 per term. The recommendation to continue with this approach aligns to the operating budget assumptions.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

None

Exhibits Attached:

None