

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Bylaw C15-16, a Bylaw of the City of Fort Saskatchewan to Amend Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15

Motions:

1. That Council authorize Administration to enter into an agreement with the City of Edmonton, City of St. Albert and Strathcona County for inclusion into the U-Pass Program.
2. That Council give first reading to Bylaw C15-16, which amends Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15, for transit fees.
3. That Council give second reading to Bylaw C15-16, which amends Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15, for transit fees.
4. That Council provide unanimous consent to proceed with third and final reading to Bylaw C15-16, which amends Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15, for transit fees.
5. That Council give third reading to Bylaw C15-16, which amends Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15, for transit fees.

Purpose:

To present Council with information, request support for the City to participate in the U-Pass Program and subsequent to this approval, that Council give three readings to Bylaw C15-16, which amends Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15, for transit fees.

Background:

The following amendments are proposed:

Public Transit – U-Pass

In 2007, the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan partnered with the City of Edmonton, the City of St. Albert and County of Strathcona. They created a universal pass (U-Pass) to be used by their student body for mass transit within the three municipalities. The fee was tied to the enrollment costs to the institution, per term (fall, spring, and summer). This partnership grew to include the Northern Institute of Technology (NAIT), NorQuest College and Concordia University.

With the introduction of the City's Transit Pilot Project in 2014, the U-pass was placed in the City's fare structure. The goal was to help promote student travel from Fort Saskatchewan to the post-secondary institutions. At that time, the City received no revenue from the partnership. In 2015, together with the City of Leduc and the City of Spruce Grove, the City approached the partnership requesting to add our communities. It was decided that the three new communities would be included in the partnership, starting in January 2017, after accepting the revenue agreement between all municipalities.

Benefits

- U-pass allows students living within the City to seamlessly travel on local and ETS service and use neighboring systems with no additional fare required.

- Reduces commuter traffic on local roads and highways, leading to a reduction in greenhouse gases.
- Helps students with potential debt loads as they would be able to commute from home, rather than find alternative housing within other communities.
- Reduces a student's need for a vehicle and associated costs.
- Gives students a reliable mode of transportation.
- Provides the City with a consistent revenue source.

U-pass Statistical Information

- In 2015, the City sold 19 U-Pass companion passes at \$124 each. In addition, on the commuter route, 1,577 rides were from U-Pass holders at one dollar each. This generated a total of \$3,933 in revenue, with the use of U-Pass, reducing the student fares.
- In 2016, the City is projecting sales of 29 companion passes at \$124 each and an additional 1,656 rides from U-Pass holder paying one dollar. The City projects a revenue of \$5,252.
- The revenue sharing agreement is for 0.25% of the revenue generated by U-Pass paid enrollment. This represents an estimated \$55,567 of additional revenue for the City.
- Based on this projected revenue, we should see an increase in revenue from \$129,500 to \$179,815 ($\$129,500 - \$5,252 + \$55,567$).

Request

Upon receiving Council approval, the City of Fort Saskatchewan will enter into an agreement with the City of Edmonton, City of St. Albert and Strathcona County to allow the City to collect funds from post-secondary student's contributions to a U-Pass. This means the City will not charge students who attend a post-secondary institution any additional fees as they are already required to purchase a U-Pass.

The three monthly local pass items for students, adults, and seniors were not included in the last amendment to the Fees and Charges Bylaw. These items were not included because the feedback from the pilot project did not support this fare media at the time. Additionally, when the commuter passes were reviewed, they included a fair discount to local riders with the ability to travel on both transit systems.

The Adult Book of 10 Tickets was an item sold during the pilot period. During the last review, the Adult Book of 10 Tickets was inadvertently removed from the Bylaw and will once again be included.

Recommendation:

That Council provide a resolution approving Administration to enter into an agreement with City of Edmonton, City of St. Albert and Strathcona County, and that Council give three readings to Bylaw C15-16, which amends Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15.

Attachments:

1. Bylaw C15-16 - Amending Fees and Charges Bylaw C23-15
 2. Bylaw C23-15 - Portion of Bylaw outlining sections to be amended
-

Prepared by:	Chad Paddick Manager, Transportation Services	Date:	October 5, 2016
Approved by:	Richard Gagnon Director, Infrastructure Management	Date:	October 5, 2016
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager, Infrastructure and Community Services	Date:	October 5, 2016
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date:	October 5, 2016
Submitted to:	City Council	Date:	October 11, 2016