

November 23, 2023



Student Transit Pass Program

Transportation Standing Committee

Background

- Kingston, Ontario student program began in 2012 with distribution of passes to all high school students.
- Providing access to transit for youth considered to have economic, societal, and environmental benefits.



Background

- In Halifax, Phase 1 of the pilot included 4 high schools (2 HRCE, 2 CSAP) and began in fall 2021.
- Phase 2 included the same 4 high schools, and saw the addition of 6 HRCE junior high schools in fall 2022.

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Pilot Results

- Program viewed favorably by parents, and students.
- No significant issues around overloading.
- Challenges with measuring the impact/success.
- In the neighbourhood around Woodlawn High School, ridership increased by approximately 50%.
- Interest in continuing to a permanent and expanded program.

Program Costs

- Cost is based on estimated revenue loss.
- A permanent program with the existing schools is estimated at \$371,700/year.
- Full expansion to all HRCE and CSAP students in Grades 7-12 is estimated at \$1.8M/year.
- A funding source is not immediately apparent.

Next Steps

- An interim step is proposed, to extend the existing students to June 2024.
- The total cost of this is estimate at approximately \$200,000, with HRCE covering their share of \$185,000.
- Continue to explore funding opportunities.

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Considerations

- Operational Concerns – overloading, youth-related safety incidents.
- Implementation Timelines – rely on pass distribution and education sessions, securing contribution agreements.

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Recommendation

- Approve the extension of Phase 2 of the Student Transit Pass Pilot Program, which includes four high schools and six junior high schools, to the end of the current school year (June 2024);
- Accept a contribution of \$185,000 from the HRCE towards the extension of Phase 2 of the program, and authorize the CAO to negotiate and execute a contribution agreement;

Recommendation

- Subject to funding availability, approve in principle the expansion of the program to additional schools, including 10 high schools and 27 junior high schools; and

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Recommendation

- Direct staff to continue to pursue funding opportunities for the expansion of the program, including Options F, G, and H in Table 1 of this report. Should funding be committed by an external party for program expansion, authorize the CAO to proceed with the implementation of the Option that is funded. If funding is committed from another order of government, included from HRCE/CSAP, authorize the CAO to accept the contribution agreement, but also, to proceed with the implementation of the program upon receipt of a letter of intent to allow for the expansion of the program in a timely manner.