

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



<p>Date: October 15, 2020</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p> <p>From: Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p> <hr/> <p>Meeting date: November 4, 2020</p>
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Subject

MiWay Discount to UTM students of 2020/2021 Fall/Winter U-Pass Program

Recommendation

1. That the report dated October 15, 2020 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works entitled "MiWay Discount to students of 2020/2021 Fall/Winter U-Pass Program" be received.
2. That a discount, effective September 18, 2020, of \$15 per student totalling \$219,000 be approved for all those students who were unable to collect their 2020/2021 Fall/Winter U-Pass cards during the September 18, 2020 to October 4, 2020 University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union student office closure due to COVID-19 precautions.
3. That the User Fees and Charges By-law 0156-2019, as amended, and the User Fees and Charges By-law for 2021, as approved by Council, be amended to reflect the discounted 2020/2021 Fall/Winter U-Pass 8 Month Fee as outlined in Recommendation #2.

Background

On the evening of Thursday September 17, 2020 University of Toronto Mississauga Student Union (UTMSU) was notified of two positive COVID-19 cases at the student centre. Due to the nature of the situation, the UTMSU Health and Safety Committee made the decision to close the UTMSU office at the student centre for two weeks starting Friday September 18, 2020. Accordingly, U-Pass distribution was suspended during this two week period to October 4, 2020. In addition, COVID-19 physical distancing measures and building access restrictions delayed the U-Pass distribution which adversely impacted the number of students who could pick up their cards as it had to be done via pre-booking to avoid crowding in the office. By September 18, 2020, only 1,740 (11%) of the total 16,340 students enrolled for the 2020/2021 Fall/Winter academic program had picked up their U-Pass cards.

Comments

In order to address the COVID-19 U-Pass distribution challenges and the 2 weeks closure of UTMSU office at the student centre, UTMSU and MiWay have agreed on a secured mailing out option to the students as an efficient and safe way of getting the U-Pass cards to the remainder of the students.

UTMSU has shared the challenges of not being able to distribute and provide U-Pass cards in time to the students who rely on transit as a primary mode of travel and also brought concerns of unexpected additional travel expenses from the U-Pass eligible students who used MiWay service by paying regular fares. Considering the unprecedented circumstance all of us are facing and supporting UTM students in good faith, MiWay is recommending that the City provide a \$15 discount to students who did not pick up their U-Pass cards before September 18, 2020. The 1,740 students who had picked their U-Pass cards are exempted from this discount. Both By-law 0156-2019, as amended, as well as the new 2021 Fees and Charges By-law as approved by Council will be amended to reflect the discounted fees.

Based on the re-negotiated U-Pass agreement, effective September 1, 2020, Council approval of the U-Pass fee as set out in User Fees and Charges By-law 0156-2019 as well as the new U-Pass fee in the 2021 Fees and Charges Bylaw as approved by Council for the 2020-21 Fall/Winter term of \$257.28, the \$15 discount to 14,600 students who did not pick up the U-Pass will cost the City \$ 219,000. However, this will address UTM students' concerns of unexpected travel expenses and the UTMSU's distribution challenges in a reasonable way.

Strategic Plan

This discount will contribute to the strategic pillar of Developing a Transit Oriented City and the strategic goals to:

- Ensuring Youth and New Immigrants Thrive
- Ensuring Affordability and Accessibility
- Attract and Retain Youth

Financial Impact

The \$15 U-Pass discount per student totals \$219,000 for the two week period. This represents lost revenue to the financial year 2020. Without the discount, MiWay anticipated \$4,200,000 in total revenues from the Fall/Winter U-Pass Program. The \$219,000 discount now revises anticipated revenue down to \$3,981,000.

MiWay will receive the full \$4,200,000 from UTM, the \$219,000 discount will be issued to UTM as part of the settlement process at the end of the Fall/Winter U-Pass Program. UTM shall manage the distribution of the discount to the students.

Conclusion

MiWay is recommending that a discount of \$15 per U-Pass totalling \$219,000 be approved for the students who were unable to pick up their U-Pass cards within the two weeks due to the closure of the student centre right after confirmation of two positive COVID-19 cases. UTMSU has shared with MiWay challenges they encountered of not being able to distribute and provide U-Pass cards in time to the students who rely on transit as a primary mode of travel and also brought concerns of unexpected additional travel expenses from the U-Pass eligible students who used MiWay service by paying regular fares. Considering the unprecedented circumstances that we all are facing due to COVID-19 outbreak, the \$15 discount to each of these eligible students is in good faith and will help alleviate the UTM students unexpected travel expenses and the UTMSU's distribution challenges in a reasonable way.



Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

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