

4. Expansion of the TransLink Universal Pass Program To All Public Post-secondary Students

MOVED by Councillor Meggs
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

WHEREAS TransLink states that the U-Pass is a “way of providing students with affordable access to public transit and reducing vehicle trips to campuses;” and

WHEREAS in order to meet the greenhouse gas emissions set by the premier of British Columbia, transit ridership in the GVRD would have to double by 2020; and

WHEREAS implementation of the U-Pass at SFU and UBC has led to 39% and 53% increases in ridership since 2003; and

WHEREAS the Students’ Unions of Vancouver Community College, Douglas Students’ Union and the Emily Carr Students’ Union have repeatedly requested that TransLink remove the “revenue neutrality” policy (institutions with high ridership prior to U-Pass implementation are assessed a higher U-Pass fee) to allow for the expansion of a fairly priced Universal Pass to all public post-secondary students in Metro Vancouver; and

WHEREAS the Presidents of VCC and Emily Carr have sent letters of support to TransLink for a fairly priced Universal Pass at their institutions; and

WHEREAS UBC students pay \$23.75/month, SFU students pay \$26.10/month, while Vancouver Community College, Emily Carr University and Douglas College students are forced to pay up to five times that amount; and

WHEREAS the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services agrees with students that accessible transit services are an important spending priority and has urged government to consider facilitating the implementation of a standard U-Pass, bearing in mind the regional differences in transit services; and

WHEREAS The Students’ Unions of Vancouver Community College, Douglas Students’ Union and the Emily Carr Students’ Union intend to launch a formal complaint against the Ministry of Transportation and TransLink through the BC Ombudsman for U-Pass price discrimination;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver endorse the formal complaint to the BC Ombudsman launched on behalf of students of Emily Carr University, Vancouver Community College and Douglas College seeking an end to this discriminatory policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver endorse the call of the Students’ Unions of Vancouver Community College, Emily Carr Students’ Union and Douglas Students’ Union for a standardized price for the Universal Pass program in Metro Vancouver that will not increase the cost to students already included in the program; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver, through the Mayor, communicate this decision to the TransLink Board of Directors and Transport Minister Kevin Falcon and circulate this resolution to other municipalities through the TransLink service area for their consideration and endorsement.

referred

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