SUBJECT: Redeemer University College - Transit Pass Extension Agreement (PW07100) - (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the Transit Pass Extension Agreement between Redeemer University College Student Senate, Redeemer University College, and the City of Hamilton for the period May 1, 2007, to April 30, 2008.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Approval of the recommendation in this report will provide necessary authorization to execute an Extension Agreement with Redeemer University College Student Senate (RSS) and Redeemer University College in time to renew the Transit Pass program for September 1, 2007, being the start of the 2007 academic year.

The various University Transit Pass Agreements with McMaster Graduate Students Association, McMaster Students Union, RSS, and the soon to be initiated one with Mohawk Students Association IAHS students have similar terms and fee structures, but are not aligned with regard to the term (length) of the Agreements. All Agreements will come due for renegotiation in preparation for the 2008 academic year, and staff members are reviewing and will report further to Council on the fee structure and terms for similar programs that are in place at other municipalities.
The Agreement with RSS and Redeemer University College also contains a provision for a closed door shuttle service, operated by HSR at a negotiated rate which is reflected in a supplementary service fee, in addition to the fees associated with the Transit Pass. This supplementary service fee has been updated through negotiation to reflect current HSR rates.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City maintains a Transit Pass Agreement with RSS and Redeemer University College. At the request of the RSS and the University, the existing Agreement was for a one year term ending April 30, 2007, with provision for further extension of the Agreement at the discretion of the parties. The parties to the Agreement now wish to execute the necessary Extension Agreement to maintain the program. The Extension Agreement is for a further term of one year, sets out the terms of renewal, and essentially confirms all previously agreed to conditions within the existing Agreement. The Extension Agreement has been cooperatively developed by City Legal Services, Transit staff, RSS, and Redeemer University College.

The existing Agreement and fee structure for the program at Redeemer University College was the result of the recommendations of a McMaster University Bus Pass Program(s) Task Force established by Council in 2004, such recommendations being approved by Council under Report PW05057.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

The Transit Pass Agreement with Redeemer University College Student Senate (RSS) and Redeemer University College is a source of some $70,000 in annual revenues to the City, and promotes the use of public transit with the attendant benefits to the community and the environment. Extension of the Agreement with RSS and Redeemer University College will maintain the University Transit Pass program across all major student groups at Universities within the City of Hamilton.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Council could choose to impose new terms and conditions for negotiation with Redeemer University College Student Senate (RSS) and Redeemer University College, such as a revised price structure for the coming academic year. Staff do not recommend this alternative, as the terms and conditions of the Agreement are essentially the same as those in agreements with the student groups at McMaster University, and are consistent with those terms and conditions resulting from the previously accepted recommendations of the McMaster University Bus Pass Program(s) Task Force. As reported in Report PW07011, regarding the introduction of the University Transit Pass program for Mohawk College IAHS students, staff will review the rate structure for the University Transit Pass programs by August, 2007 as part of preparations for the 2008 budget deliberations and required renewals of program agreements with participating McMaster, Redeemer and Mohawk student groups for the 2008 academic year.
FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:
There are no financial or staffing implications arising from the recommendation. Acceptance of the recommendation will commit Council to the Agreement with RSS and Redeemer University College for one more year, commencing May 1, 2007.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:
There are no policies affecting the proposal.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:
Consultation was undertaken between Redeemer University College, RSS, and staff at Public Works, Transit and Legal Services.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:
By evaluating the "Triple Bottom Line", (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
The recommendations enhance community well-being through increased travel options related to the use of public Transit, and improved integration with Redeemer University College regarding enhancement of public Transit as a means of transportation for students.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
The recommendations enhance public Transit within the community, providing environmental benefits associated with increased Transit use and a decrease in the dependence on private automobiles.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
The recommendations maintain existing public Transit program revenues.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☑ No