That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to enter into a Transportation Program Agreement with Columbia Housing Services Inc. for a term ending on July 31, 2013, with an option to renew for a further three (3) year period, such agreement to include provision of an HSR bus pass under an annual fee arrangement and a dedicated school transportation component, subject to the approval of the City Solicitor as to form and content of the Agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Transportation Program between City of Hamilton and Columbia Housing Services Inc., representing Columbia International College (CIC), has been in place since 2003, providing a dedicated school transportation component funded through an annual fee arrangement utilizing HSR Elementary/Secondary Monthly Bus Passes. This program has worked well for the parties, and is now due for renewal, having remained in force through an automatic one year extension beyond the December 31, 2010, term of the Agreement.

The program provides for recognition of the CIC academic year schedule and the similarity with the existing HSR programs involving institutions such as the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, to offer an attractive price to the students, which is based on the Elementary/Secondary Monthly Bus Pass price. These fees are mandatory, and involve about 1,300 -1,400 students. Additionally, for those Columbia
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International College (CIC) students living outside of residence a discretionary fee has been set, their participation will be optional, since many have private transportation arrangements and do not use HSR. The structure of the agreement will again be such that pricing of the fee may be adjusted, upon defined notice, should Council direct a change in price of the Elementary/Secondary Monthly Bus Pass price. The agreement will be for the period ending on July 31, 2013. A cost for the dedicated school transportation component will be identified within the agreement.

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 3

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The recommendations are understood to have neutral financial implications for Transit, as any increases in net revenue are to be offset by additional service supply.

Notwithstanding, the rationale for the staff recommendation of a one-year agreement with an option for a three year extension, that has been arrived at by mutual agreement with Columbia International College (CIC), is to allow both CIC and staff to update our respective understanding of the value of the pass program based on student use during 2013, without either party being obligated to continue with the program beyond 2013.

Staffing: None

Legal: None

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Council had previously authorized staff to enter into a transportation program with CIC, which was to include a dedicated school transportation component and provision of an HSR bus pass, for a period ending on December 31, 2010, (subject to provision for automatic renewal). This program was developed in response to demands placed on HSR system capacity as a result of development of student residences by CIC in several City locations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Columbia International College.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Staff from CIC and the City are agreed that there have been significant changes in the environment since the last agreement was signed. Both parties concur that a shorter term agreement with the option to renew is the best approach at this time. It will allow both parties time to better determine if the current solution is the correct solution.
Enrolment at CIC has increased dramatically since 2007 and it is expected to continue to expand, while HSR service has also increased, with further increases being implemented in 2012 and 2013.

CIC expects to have its new residence built on the mountain, which will hold approximately 400 of the students that currently reside at various locations in the lower City, while continuing to expand enrolment at the school. This movement may require a change to the dedicated school transportation component, coupled with the HSR service enhancement being implemented through 2012 and 2013. It is prudent at this time to analyze and plan for these changes.

With the contract set to expire in mid-2013 it will give staff the time required to do the relevant counts on both the HSR system and the dedicated school transportation component to ensure that they are operating both efficiently and effectively in relation to this agreement.

Staff will report back to Council should it be determined that a comprehensive change to this agreement is necessary.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Council may choose to not accept this recommendation, in which case the current Agreement with CIC would be discontinued, and CIC students would revert to the purchase of regularly priced monthly bus passes, at their discretion. This arrangement is one that does not adequately address the needs of CIC, and does pose operational problems for the HSR, as the use of regular HSR service by CIC students living in residence has previously proven to overload HSR service at peak travel hours.

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN**


**Financial Sustainability**
- Financially Sustainable City by 2020
- Effective and sustainable Growth Management
- Delivery of municipal services and management capital assets/liabilities in a sustainable, innovative and cost effective manner

**Growing Our Economy**
- An improved customer service

**Social Development**
- Residents in need have access to adequate support services
- People participate in all aspects of community life without barriers or stigma
Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

Values: Honest, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork

Environmental Stewardship
• Reduced impact of City activities on the environment

Healthy Community
• An engaged Citizenry

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES
None