SUBJECT: McMaster Graduate Students Association - University Transit Pass Agreement Contract Extension (PW06085) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the University Transit Pass Extension Agreement between McMaster Graduate Students Association, McMaster University, and the City for the period September 1, 2006, to August 31, 2007.

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The University Transit Pass Agreement between the McMaster Graduate Students Association, McMaster University, and the City expires on August 31, 2006. In order to extend the Agreement, a further Extension Agreement is required. 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.

Approval of the recommendation to this report will provide necessary authorization to execute the Extension Agreement in time to renew the program for September 1, 2006.

BACKGROUND:

The City maintains University Transit Pass Agreements with the University and each of the McMaster Students Union (representing undergraduate students) and the McMaster Graduate Students Association (GSA). At the request of the GSA, the existing
Agreement was for a one year term ending August 31, 2006, with provision for extension of the Agreement at the discretion of City Council. The parties to the Agreement now wish to execute the necessary extension to maintain the program.

The existing agreements and fee structure for the program at the University 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 Agreement with the McMaster Graduate Students Association (GSA) is a source of some $215,000 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 the GSA will maintain the University Transit Pass program across the two major student groups at the University.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Council could choose to impose new terms and conditions for negotiation with the GSA, such as a revised price structure for the coming academic year. Staff does not recommend this alternative, as the terms and conditions of the GSA Agreement are essentially the same as those in the Agreement with the McMaster Students Union (MSU), and are consistent with those terms and conditions resulting from the previously accepted recommendations of the McMaster University Bus Pass Program(s) Task Force.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial or staffing implications arising from the recommendation. Acceptance of the recommendation will commit Council to the GSA Agreement for one more year, commencing September 1, 2006.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

There are no policies affecting the proposal.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Consultation was undertaken between the GSA, and staff at 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 goals of McMaster University regarding enhancement of public Transit as a means of dealing with pressures on parking and public/private road networks.
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

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