CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transportation, Energy & Facilities Division

TO: Chair and Members
Public Works Committee

WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE

COMMITTEE DATE: March 22, 2010

SUBJECT/REPORT NO:
University/College Transit Pass Program (PW10023) - (City Wide)

SUBMITTED BY:
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General Manager
Public Works Department

PREPARED BY:
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RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute a one year Agreement with Mohawk Students’ Association and Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology for a University/College Transit Pass, at a fee per student for the 2010/2011 academic year equivalent to 140% of the HSR Adult Monthly Bus Pass rate, such rate having been previously approved by Council through Report (PW08017);

(b) That staff be authorized to negotiate, and the Mayor and Clerk authorized to execute, future agreements with the above mentioned parties, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, that extend and renew participation in the University/College Transit Pass program at such fees as may be approved by Council from time to time.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation (a) to this Report authorizes the implementation of an Agreement with Mohawk Students’ Association and Mohawk College that replaces the existing agreement, which expires at the end of the 2009/2010 academic year. The proposed Agreement will implement the approved $121.80 base price of the University/College Transit Pass (UCTP) for the 2010/2011 academic year, but more importantly will now be inclusive of all Mohawk students attending campuses within the City of Hamilton.
There will be approximately 8,500 students enrolled at the Fennell and Stoney Creek campuses of the College in September 2010, in addition to the approximately 1,300 students attending the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS) at McMaster University covered by the current UCTP Agreement. Each of the 8,500 students will be enrolled in the UCTP program, with exceptions for co-op students and persons with disabilities under specific conditions. It is expected that approximately 7,700 of the 8,500 “new” students will be enrolled in the program in each of the two semesters during the academic year.

The new enrolment in the program will generate approximately $940,000 in revenues, of which a portion may be “new” revenues i.e. from students that are not currently using HSR in any form. These revenues cannot not all be considered as “new”, as a substantial number of students are currently paying passengers on HSR at an undiscounted rate.

While there is no current means of determining the net impact on HSR revenues, there is likely a positive impact which will be used by Transit to ensure that sufficient service to the campuses is maintained until such time as both the service and revenue impacts can be assessed, such assessment being targeted for report to Council concurrent with the 2011 budget deliberations. Preliminary assessment of existing service to the Mohawk College campuses indicates that there is sufficient capacity to absorb expected initial increased ridership.

Recommendation (b) will allow staff to offer and subsequently execute agreements with the parties, based on the model that has been developed for the program, ensuring like terms and conditions are maintained for all program participants at the then current fee as approved by Council.

Alternatives for Consideration - Not Applicable

**FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** The Recommendations are deemed to have neutral financial implications for Transit, as any increases in net revenue are likely to be offset by additional service capacity requirements to meet substantial increases in trips by students.

**Staffing:** The Recommendations have no staffing implications.

**Legal:** The Recommendations have no legal implications.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The City has not had an agreement with Mohawk College and its students under the UCTP program in the past, other than for those students attending the IAHS program at McMaster University. There has not previously been sufficient support for the program at Mohawk College to bring the question of inclusion to a referendum.

Mohawk Students’ Association approached Transit staff in October 2009, asking that a discussion take place which might lead to an agreement on inclusion of Mohawk
College in the UCTP program. This discussion was carried out over a two month period, and resulted in a concept that would allow the program to be implemented across the Mohawk College student body, while recognizing the need for particular exclusions from fees for those students who attend the Brantford campus of the College, those in their co-op terms, and for a small segment of students with disabilities who currently receive a better benefit under existing HSR fare programs.

A referendum on the question of inclusion in the UCTP program was held between January 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 25\textsuperscript{th}, with a resulting turn-out that was higher than that for any other previous referendum of the Association, and a strong positive vote on the question.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications.

### RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken with the Finance & Administration Division of Corporate Services, and with both Mohawk Students’ Association and Mohawk College.

### ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The UCTP program is the source of about $3.0M in annual revenues to the City. Approximately 25,000 post-secondary students pay a fee for the Pass, and they take approximately 2.6M trips on HSR annually.

Mohawk College students attending the Institute of Applied Health Sciences are enrolled in the UCTP program under an existing agreement. The Recommendations to this report will result in an additional 8,500 Mohawk College students being enrolled in the UCTP program. While there is an assurance of some $940,000 in revenues from new enrolment in the program, the net new revenues cannot be calculated, as the method of payment by existing Mohawk student riders on HSR cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

As the recommended agreement with Mohawk Students’ Association and Mohawk College was not anticipated when the 2010 Transit budget was developed, it is expected that this program expansion will result in a positive revenue impact in 2010, which may offset expenditures for additional service that may be required to meet anticipated increases in ridership from the expanded user base. Preliminary assessment of existing service to the Mohawk College campuses indicates that there is sufficient capacity to absorb expected initial increased ridership; further assessment of the evolving service requirements will be undertaken during the fall academic semester.

### ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable.
CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN


**Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization**
- More innovation, greater teamwork, better client focus

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

**Intergovernmental Relationships**
- Maintain effective relationships with other public agencies

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

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**
None