SUBJECT: Columbia International College - Transportation Program (PW07012) - (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

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 December 31, 2010, 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.

Gerry Davis
Acting General Manager
Public Works

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A Transportation Program between HSR 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, 2005 term of the Agreement.

CIC and HSR have agreed that the program continues to meet the needs of the students at CIC through a mandatory annual transportation fee program for all students living in residence, coupled with the existing dedicated school transportation which CIC provides through fixed cost subsidy from the bus pass program. 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.

The annual transportation fee charged to students will be:

- $475 for all residence students (other than those at CIC Main West), whose use is primarily school purpose in nature; and
- $170 for those residents on Main Street West at the campus, recognizing that their use will primarily be outside of school hours.

These fees are mandatory, and involve about 700-800 students. Additionally, for those Columbia International College (CIC) students living outside of residence, an annual price of $540 has been set, but their participation will be optional, as 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 a four year period ending on December 31, 2010. A fixed cost for the dedicated school transportation component in each of the four years will be identified within the agreement.

**BACKGROUND:**

The information/recommendations contained within this report have City wide implications.

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, 2005 (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.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

The 2005 revenues from the CIC program were about $335,000, against expenses for the dedicated school transportation component of about $245,000, resulting in a net revenue of some $90,000 for HSR. This net revenue aligns with previous estimates that had been reported to Council in 2003 upon conception of the program.

**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 significant 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.
FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no further legal or staffing impacts associated with this Agreement, and the necessary amendments to the existing Agreement will be fully reviewed by the Legal Services division of the City prior to the agreement being concluded.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

There are no policies affecting this proposal.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

This recommendation is the result of consultation between CIC and HSR representatives, and will be subject to final consultation with the Legal Services Division of the City.

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
Access to the community by persons with disabilities is enhanced in a manner that complies with legislated requirements.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Encourages the ongoing use of public transit in the alternative to the private automobile with much higher GHG emissions.

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