



SUBJECT: Consideration of free transit for students

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Mayor's Office

Report Number: MO-14-19

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 770-00

Date to Committee: September 9, 2019

Date to Council: September 23, 2019

Recommendation:

Direct the Mayor and Director of Transit to develop a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding free transit for Burlington students, outlining the program, costs, eligibility, and commitments in more detail, in partnership with Halton Region and the four school boards that serve Halton students: Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board, and the two French school boards, Conseil scolaire Viamonde and Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir, and report back to council for a decision.

Purpose:

Enable more students to take transit without the barrier of cost supports two of our key mandates as a City:

A City that Moves

- Increased Transportation Flows and Connectivity

A Healthy and Greener City

- Healthy Lifestyles
 - Environmental and Energy Leadership
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Background and Discussion:

There is interest from Mayor Marianne Meed Ward and local school boards and trustees to explore the option of free transit for high school students in Burlington, to be implemented as early as the 2020 budget (if feasible).

Additional detail on earlier stakeholder and city staff discussions can be found in Appendix B: the minutes of a meeting held at Burlington City Hall on July 17th.

Mayor Meed Ward is bringing a proposed motion to the Halton District School Board (HDSB) Committee of the Whole on Sept. 11, 2019, to vote yes in principle to proceeding to the next step of developing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the program, costs, eligibility and commitments in more detail (Appendix A).

We are seeking similar commitments from the Halton Catholic District School Board and the two French school boards, Conseil scolaire Viamonde and Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir.

Conclusion:

After receiving direction to proceed, the Mayor and Director of Transit will work with Halton Region and participating school boards to develop a draft MOU on free student transit, to be brought back to our respective councils/boards for a decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

905-335-7607

Appendices:

- A. Statement of Interest
- B. Minutes from the July 17, 2019 meeting at Burlington City Hall

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.