



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-213

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Sheila Kidd, Director of Transportation Services
Jeremy DaCosta, Transit Manager

DATE OF MEETING: June 19, 2012

SUBJECT: Grade 9 – Community Activity Pass – Addition of Kingston Transit Access

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Representatives of the Limestone District School Board, Mayor Gerretsen, and City staff met recently to discuss opportunities to provide high school students with access to Kingston Transit service. The discussion identified an opportunity to broaden the scope of the existing Grade 9 Community Activity Pass to include complimentary access to Kingston Transit.

At the request of the Mayor, staff reviewed the opportunity and recommend that complimentary access to Kingston Transit be granted to Grade 9 students at all high schools within the City of Kingston, on a pilot basis, for the period of September 2012 – August 2013, to complement the existing Community Activity Pass.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Grade 9 students attending secondary schools within the City of Kingston, who present valid identification, be provided with complimentary access to Kingston Transit on a pilot basis for the period of September 2012 – August 2013; and

THAT staff report back to Council prior to the end of the pilot period with a recommendation to continue the program beyond August 2013.

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AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

<p><u>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER</u> Denis Leger, Commissioner of Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services</p>
<p><u>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</u> Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer</p>

CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability & Growth</i>	N/R
Lanie Hurdle, <i>Community Services</i>	√
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

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OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

Representatives of the Limestone District School Board, Mayor Gerretsen, and City staff met recently to discuss opportunities to provide high school students with access to Kingston Transit service. The discussion identified an opportunity to broaden the scope of the existing Grade 9 Community Activity Pass to include complimentary access to Kingston Transit for Grade 9 students attending high schools within the City of Kingston boundaries.

Kingston Gets Active, a community-wide partnership consisting of school boards and other organizations (including the City of Kingston), administers the Grade 9 Community Activity Pass. The Community Activity Pass permits Grade 9 students throughout Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Counties to access recreation programs, such as public swimming and public skating, at a variety of facilities within the KFL&A area at no charge.

Given that Kingston Transit is funded by tax revenue and fares, the transit pilot recommended in this report is limited to Grade 9 students attending high schools within the City. The administration and promotion will be managed by Kingston Gets Active as part of the current Grade 9 program. Because this is an established, existing program, the expansion to include access to Kingston Transit can be completed without additional City resources.

According to City of Kingston Recreation Services staff, the lack of a transportation option is a barrier to accessing the recreation activities. There are approximately 2,500 Grade 9 students in KFL&A, however, there are only 200-300 uses of the Grade 9 Activity Pass each year. In the opinion of Recreation Services staff, broadening the pass to include transit access will lead to increased usage.

Providing complimentary access also gives students a transportation option for other purposes including traveling to/from school, employment, or for personal reasons. This exposure to the Kingston Transit system creates the potential for these students to continue as regular, committed transit passengers when their pass expires at the end of Grade 9. Staff recommend that complimentary access to Kingston Transit be granted to Grade 9 students at all high schools within the City of Kingston, on a pilot basis, for the period of September 2012 – August 2013, to complement the existing Community Activity Pass program.

To use the Kingston Transit service, students will be required to show a valid Grade 9 student card to the bus operator. Bus operators will track ridership using the fare box.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

The current Kingston Transit fare policy does not address this type of request therefore Council approval is required.

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Approval of this request will not result in any additional costs. Staff has not completed a revenue impact analysis at this time.

CONTACTS:

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OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Lynda Breen, Supervisor – Recreation Programs

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EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A