



TRANSIT AND PARKING STRATEGY MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: B. FORSYTH, DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT AND PARKING STRATEGY

NOTED: R. JAMES-REID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ACCESS BARRIE

RE: U-PASS CONTRACT AMENDMENT

DATE: JUNE 29, 2020

The Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) program was successfully implemented for the start of the 2018/19 school year in September 2018 that provides all full-time Georgian College students with unlimited access to the transit system for the semester through a mandatory fee of \$86 as part of their tuition as voted on within a student referendum. The U-Pass program has been a successful partnership with Georgian College that has resulted in an increase of 500,000 trips per year with ridership through the U-Pass program representing 30% of all trips system wide.

With the recent impacts of COVID-19 Georgian College has made the temporary switch to remote delivery of their programs and courses for the safety of their students. These factors combined with the consideration that transit has been made free to the public out of safety concern, the City has provided prorated refunds back to Georgian College to transfer back to the student population as previously communicated.

Since then, Georgian College has communicated their plan to continue providing services remotely for the fall semester except for some on-campus lab work for students that is required as part of their program. To formalize a fair and transparent approach moving forward the City and Georgian have agreed to suspend the U-Pass program during semesters of remote delivery. Essentially, if the students are not required to be on campus and are discouraged from non-essential travel it would be unfair to levy the U-Pass fee, and subsequently students would not receive valid fare for the transit system. If a student still requires transit for their essential travel, they would be able to purchase a student monthly pass for \$66.75/month.

The Georgian College Student Association (GCSA) has been extremely appreciative of the efforts the City has made to support the students during these difficult times and the City continues to maintain a positive and productive relationship with our key partner. As a gesture of good faith and in recognition of the successful U-Pass program to date the GCSA has committed to extending the initial term of the U-Pass agreement for an additional 12 months. In addition, Georgian has agreed to extend the initial term for any semester that is delivered remotely.

To recognize these changes within our existing contract we have drafted an amendment to the U-Pass agreement that would commit to suspending the U-Pass program for any semester that is delivered remotely; and to extend the expiry date of the initial term from August 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022 with a provision to automatically extend further if the U-Pass program is suspended further after December 31, 2020. The U-Pass agreement also has a two-year renewal option which would remain in effect after the initial term.

We feel these changes will provide certainty, commitment, and stability for both parties and secure a partnership that has been beneficial for both Georgian College and the City. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.