

DATE: 18 January 1999

TO/DEST: Coordinator, Transit Services Committee

FROM/EXP: Interim General Manager

SUBJECT/OBJET: **FARES FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS OF PROVINCIALY-REGISTERED PRIVATE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Transit Services Committee consider the request to extend the university/college student pass privilege to full-time students of private vocational institutions, subject to certain criteria.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting in June 1996, the Commission decided against granting this privilege to full-time students of provincially-registered private vocational institutions. The primary reasons for the decision were the annual revenue loss which was estimated in the magnitude of \$150,000 and the administrative complexities of ensuring that the OC Transpo University/College ID card was only sold to legitimate full-time students who were registered at these institutions.

There are twenty three provincially-registered private vocational institutions in the Region with an estimated enrolment of 3,000 to 4,000 full-time students.

Currently, the Transit Commission's policy allows student passes to be used by full-time students of provincially registered universities and colleges. These are:

Carleton University
University of Ottawa
Dominican College
La Cité Collégiale
St. Paul's University
Algonquin College
College de l'Outaouais
College Héritage
Université du Québec à Hull

The privilege was extended to the three institutions in Hull in June 1998. At the same time, the university/college privilege was extended to include the months from May to August for qualified students of the above institutions and an annual pass was made available to post-secondary students at a discounted price from monthly passes.

DISCUSSION

Requests to revisit the policy have been received from students and the administrators of the provincially-registered private vocational institutions. They would like to see the inequity between the two categories of students eliminated by granting OC Transpo university/college student pass privileges to full-time students of these institutions. The most recent request was received from the Ottawa School of Art and is attached as Appendix A.

Staff have now developed a relatively simple set of procedures to control the issue of OC Transpo University/College Student ID cards to those students who present the appropriate documentation at time of purchase. This would reduce the administrative overhead that had previously been envisaged.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated revenue loss from extending this privilege remains in the magnitude of \$150,000. A small ridership increase would be expected from those students who otherwise would not use OC Transpo, and from those who would make more frequent trips as a result of purchasing a pass instead of using tickets.

*Approved by
M.J.E. Sheflin, P.Eng.*

Attach: (1)

September 4, 1998

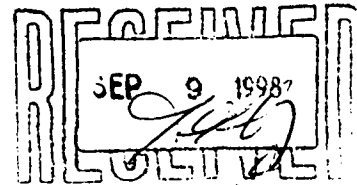


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GENERAL MANAGER



Dear Mr. Stacey,

I am writing to request a review of the status of Ottawa School of Art (OSA) students by OC Transpo. Currently, OSA students attending classes on a full-time basis are not eligible for student fare bus passes. This adds to the difficulties students face in pursuing their studies at OSA.

I realize budgetary considerations have created limitations in this regard, but the number of full-time students at the School is 60 to 75 on average. Allowing this number of students to purchase student bus passes instead of adult passes would have a minimal impact on OC Transpo's revenues, even if all our full-time students did purchase bus passes. It is possible that allowing OSA students to purchase student passes could increase the rider ship on OC Transpo by these students.

Apparently OSA also does not meet the criteria OC Transpo uses to determine which schools are recognized for these fares. It is my understanding this criteria requires that OSA be a recognized post-secondary institution which receives public funding. OSA is recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities as a post-secondary institution (institution code #EPFJ) and is considered as operating at the level of a CEGEP by the Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la science du Québec (registration #07-346A). The School receives annual funding from the City of Ottawa and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, and is eligible for funds from the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council and other provincial and federal funding agencies and ministries. OSA students involved in full-time studies are eligible for Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loans and bursaries.

I ask that consideration be given at your next meeting, to the idea of allowing full-time OSA students to purchase student fare bus passes. If you have any questions regarding the School or its programs, please call me at 241-7471. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Stellick". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Stellick
Executive Director

cc Mr. Ian Stacey
General Manager, OC Transpo