



U-Pass BC Advisory Committee

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Re: U-Pass BC program renewal post April 2016

The current U-Pass BC program, first implemented in 2011, has been successful in providing a low cost system wide transit pass to over 130,000 eligible public post-secondary students in Metro Vancouver. Additionally, the program's successful transition to the Compass Card could not have been completed without the collaborative efforts between TransLink and all of the PSI's Administration, IT departments and their Student Associations.

Provincial funding support to the program continues to be based on affordability and priority programs identified in the government's three year budget cycles. With the availability of travel and transit cost data coming from the Compass Card and the recognition of the value of U-Pass BC program to all stakeholders, we are now poised to begin a discussion on developing certainty around designing a long-term sustainable program.

To ensure a successful consultation process in designing this sustainable program the province acknowledges that we have neither the time or the information to accomplish this for a seamless continuation of U-Pass BC post April 2016 when the current provincial funding ends.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has now received Treasury Board approval to extend support to the U-Pass BC program for an additional two years (May 2016 to April 2018) which should be sufficient time to allow program stakeholders the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue on the long-term future of the U-Pass BC program. The province will be asking TransLink to lead this process over the next two years in our new U-Pass BC Contribution Agreement.

The two year program extension will require TransLink to continue to nominally increase student monthly fares to help cover inflationary costs of transit services at similar increases seen over the last two years (\$38 per month currently, increasing to \$39.50 in year one and to \$41 in year two of the extension).

The Ministry is requesting the UAC to provide detailed time sensitive dates needed by each PSI and their SA(s) to ensure there is a seamless transition of the current U-Pass

BC program. At a minimal, assuming similar terms and conditions of the current program are extended for two years, including the before mentioned student fare increase, the following information is essential to our scheduling:

Dates for: (please add additional dates if critical steps have been missed)

1. SA request to PSI to increase the mandatory fee charged to each eligible U-Pass BC Student
  - What does the SA need in place to make this request?
  - Do they require just the general terms and conditions or do they need the final Universal U-Pass BC Agreement (Agreement) between TransLink, the PSI and their SA?
2. PSI approval to collect additional mandatory fees from eligible U-Pass BC students
3. Student Association date to ensure the U-Pass BC fare increase is put to a referendum (if required at the PSI)
  - Assume that a PSI must provide notification to TransLink for a continuation in the U-Pass BC program post April 2016 by February 2016.
4. Final legal document ready - Renewed Universal U-Pass BC Agreement between TransLink, PSI and their Student Association(s).
5. Final legal document signed - Renewed Universal U-Pass BC Agreement between TransLink, PSI and their Student Association(s).

Thank you for your quick response to the above dates to ensure we can establish a project plan that allows for a planned and orderly transition into the renewed program.

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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure