



REPORT

REPORT TO: Chair and Members of the Planning, Public Works, and Transportation Committee

REPORT FROM: Deanna Locey, Transit Supervisor

DATE: January 24, 2020

REPORT NO.: TPW-2020-0009

RE: Transportation Pass Funding Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2020-0009, dated January 24, 2020 regarding the Transportation Pass Funding Agreement, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and the Clerk and Director of Legislative Services be authorized to execute an agreement with Halton Region for the SPLIT Program;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and the Clerk and Director of Legislative Services are hereby authorized to execute any subsequent Agreements and any documents ancillary hereto, to facilitate this ongoing Program, to the satisfaction of the Clerk and Director of Legislative Services.

BACKGROUND:

Halton Region's Subsidized Pass for Low Income Transit (SPLIT) Program provides affordable transportation options for low-income households within Halton Region. The SPLIT Program is available for all students, adults, and seniors in Halton living with low income. Halton Region determines program eligibility based on established income criteria, which are inclusive of all individuals receiving assistance from the Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program.

The SPLIT Program was first introduced in 2011 and subsidized the purchase of monthly transit passes offered in partnership with the City of Burlington, Town of Milton, and Town of Oakville. Through the program, monthly bus passes were purchased directly from transit service providers at a reduced rate equal to 50 percent of the regular monthly pass cost for adults and less than 50 percent of the cost for students and seniors.

In May, 2017, through Halton Region’s report SS-10-17 regarding Subsidized Passes for Low Income Transit SPLIT Update, Halton Region staff recommended modifications to the SPLIT Program to include the Town of Halton Hills’ ActiVan and taxi scrip programs, and to increase the annual funding allocation to Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School Board.

Memorandum No. P&I-2017-0025 indicated that effective September 1, 2017, the approved subsidies are available as a one-time monthly purchase option in Halton Hills as follows:

- 50 percent subsidy of ActiVan tickets in sheets of 10 tickets (either 2 or 4 sheets);
 - Sold at a price of \$3.00 per ticket;
 - SPLIT Program price will be \$1.50 per ticket;
 - Clients will continue to pay the additional \$1.00 cash fare for after-hours and weekend service.
- 50 percent subsidy of the client’s portion of taxi scrip dollars (to a maximum of 4 taxi scrip books, or \$80 face value);
 - Currently sold at 60 percent of face value (one book of \$20.00 value sold for \$12.00);
 - SPLIT Program price will be \$6.00 per book.

COMMENTS:

In 2019, a total of 1,910 ActiVan and taxi scrip booklets were sold to residents eligible for the SPLIT Program. The total subsidy amount provided by Halton Region in 2019 was \$20,694. Table 1 provides an overview of booklets and tickets sold through the SPLIT Program from 2017 to 2019.

Table 1: Overview of SPLIT Pass Sales 2017 to 2019

	2017	2018	2019
ActiVan Tickets (sold in sheets of 10)	34	356	1,026
Taxi Scrip Booklets (inclusive of Youth Taxi Scrip tickets)	36	328	884

On a monthly basis, Town staff access data from an online portal provided by the Region to reconcile purchases and invoice the Region for the required subsidy amount. This process ensures that the Town receives the full value of each ActiVan pass and/or taxi scrip booklet sold.

In order for the Town to continue participating in the SPLIT Program, a Transportation Pass Funding Agreement is required for execution. The Agreement, as indicated in Attachment 1, articulates the current program parameters, funding arrangements, and associated administrative functions required to administer the program.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Through report PDS-2015-0035, Council endorsed the 2014-2018 Strategic Action Plan as the Town's priorities for the 2014-2018 term of Council.

The following Strategic Action was identified under Sustainability:

E. Address the Social Pillar of Sustainability by focusing on improving services for seniors, youth and the disabled.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this Report. The Town recovers the full cost of each ActiVan pass or taxi scrip booklet sold for the SPLIT Program.

CONSULTATION:

Not applicable.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the Environmental Health and Social Well-being pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is Excellent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION:

The Halton Region's Subsidized Passes for Low Income Transit (SPLIT) Program will provide residents with financial constraints the subsidy necessary to access the Town's accessible transit services. This will address existing mobility barriers for many residents of Halton Hills. Clients of the Town's ActiVan, Taxi Scrip, and Youth Taxi Scrip Programs who meet the eligibility requirements of the SPLIT Program will continue to be able to access these services with fares reduced by up to 50 percent.

The program is provided by Halton Region and delivered in partnership by staff of both the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Region, with no direct cost to the Town. In order for the Town to continue participating in the SPLIT Program, a Transportation Pass Funding Agreement is required to be executed with Halton Region.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Van Ravens".

Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Mills".

Chris Mills, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent Marshall".

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer