



Ste. 146, 207 Bank Str., Ottawa ON K2P 2N2

November 29, 2021

Councillor Allan Hubley
Chair, City of Ottawa Transit Commission
Members, City of Ottawa Transit Commission
c/o OC Transpo
925 Belfast Rd.
Ottawa ON K1G 0Z4

Dear Chair Hubley:

Re. U-Pass Re-Imbursement

The Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA – representing 70 community groups in Ottawa) meets monthly to discuss issues of civic concern. At its November 17, 2021 meeting the FCA membership approved the following motion from the FCA's Transportation Committee for the Transit Commission's consideration:

Whereas many students paid for a compulsory student transit U-Pass mere weeks before Ottawa's LRT system was closed indefinitely;

Whereas many Carleton University students have already had to rely on buses while reconstruction of the O-line tracks is being completed over a period of years, necessitating the use of replacement buses at great inconvenience;

Whereas students who commute to Algonquin College, Carleton University, Ottawa University, and St. Paul University are now experiencing significant transportation delays due to the LRT being out of service, LRT Phase Two construction detours, and the arbitrary and sudden removal of many regular and replacement buses in order to make up for the closure of the LRT line;

Whereas the City of Ottawa is planning to offer free transit to all riders during the month of December, except those holding pre-paid passes such as the U-Pass - thereby increasing the number of transit riders which will slow down the transit commute of existing student riders even more

and which will increase the numbers of people riding on the buses and therefore possible Covid transmission;

Whereas many students have little or no income, are on a tight budget, and disproportionately rely on Ottawa's transit system and are one of the groups most affected by the reductions in service;

Whereas many students have now had to increasingly use taxis, Uber, and other such services, if not driving personal vehicles at increased expense for gas and parking;

Whereas regardless of when the LRT system is put back into service, so much inconvenience and expense has already been incurred by the students that a refund for loss of service is justified;

Whereas the City of Ottawa, by their actions, has therefore significantly altered the attractiveness of the U-Pass, if not the contractual terms of the program;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) request the City of Ottawa to refund half the cost of the U-Pass directly to the students who purchased one for the 2021-22 school year, and to pay for all the administrative costs to complete this.

I trust that this motion is self-explanatory. Please let us know what action the Commission will take in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Cullen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Cullen
President FCA

cc Renée Amilcar, General Manager, OC Transpo Commission