

**Written Notice of Motion as Emergency Business (Trustees Tonks and Nunziata)**

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Manager, Board Services, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with the Board's bylaws, emergency business is defined as:

a situation, or the threat of a situation, adversely affecting health, safety and/or well-being, or resulting in significant legal risk or financial damage or loss, which by its nature and seriousness requires an immediate response...

Further,

5.12.7 A matter not on the agenda or directly related to matters arising from discussion cannot be introduced by a trustee at a Board or Committee meeting, or after the notice of agenda has been circulated to members, unless the item qualifies as emergency business and is confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

**Supporting Free Public Transit for High School Students**

Trustees Tonks and Nunziata have submitted the following as a matter of urgency and for consideration as emergency business.

Therefore, be it resolved:

A. That the following matter be deemed as emergency business;  
and, if approved (requires a two-thirds majority vote of the members present to be considered);

B. That the following be considered:

Whereas, the Toronto Transit Commission is seeking feedback from stakeholders as it creates a 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook and will present an initial proposal on November 17, 2021 and hold a final vote in February 2022; and

Whereas, using transit at a younger age can encourage life-long use of transit, influencing behavioural change for a more sustainable future (Lachappelle et al, 2016); and

Whereas, a program in Kingston, Ontario to provide free transit passes to high school students, along with an on-bus orientation session to teach students how to ride the bus, has increased overall transit ridership by 73% since 2012 (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2019); and

Whereas, students and teachers have reported a reduction in low-income students' enrolment in specialized programs, after financial constraints resulted in the end of a TDSB program to provide free TTC tickets to Grade 9-12 students taking French

Immersion, Extended French, and Gifted programs in 2019 and to elementary Grade 6-8 students taking Gifted and French Immersion programs in 2020; and

Whereas, the TTC is free to ride for children 12 years and younger, but many young people do not have or carry identification and high school students reported in focus groups (TTCriders, 2021) that as younger teenagers they experienced discrimination from fare enforcement based on race and age, and were challenged about their age;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Toronto District School Board express support for an expansion of free public transit to high school students;
- (b) That the Chair write to the Toronto Transit Commission Board by November 17, 2021, recommending that they expand free TTC rides to high school students as they develop their 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook;
- (c) That the Chair write to the Mayor of Toronto, Ontario Minister of Transportation and Transport Canada to advocate for funding support for the Toronto Transit Commission in order to implement free transit for high school students;
- (d) That a copy of the letters in parts (b) and (c) be shared with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.