



**SUBJECT: SPLIT Pass Agreement Update**

**TO: Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Cttee.**

**FROM: Transit Department**

Report Number: TR-01-20

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 770-11

Date to Committee: June 9, 2020

Date to Council: June 22, 2020

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**Recommendation:**

Authorize the Director of Transit to continue the delivery of the Subsidized Passes for Low Income Transit (SPLIT) Program; and

Direct the City Manager and City Clerk to negotiate and execute, on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Burlington, all necessary Transportation Pass funding agreements, renewals and ancillary documents between the City of Burlington and the Regional Municipality of Halton, in a form acceptable to the Director of Transit and in a form satisfactory to the Executive Director of Legal Services, required to continue the delivery of the Subsidized Passes for Low Income Transit Program.

**PURPOSE:**

This report outlines the agreement between the Region of Halton and the City of Burlington related to the operation of the SPLIT transit subsidy program. The SPLIT program enables low income residents to access public transit and enhances the strategic direction:

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Improve integrated city mobility
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## **Background and Discussion:**

The SPLIT program was approved as a pilot by Regional Council in 2011 and fully adopted as an ongoing program in 2012. The purpose of the SPLIT program was to work in conjunction with municipalities in the Region of Halton to subsidize transit passes for low income residents.

Prior to May 1, 2019 Burlington residents eligible for the SPLIT Program would have covered 50% of a monthly transit pass and the Region of Halton funded the remaining 50% of the cost. Council proposed an amendment as part of the 2019 budget which made this program 100% subsidized for eligible residents, starting on May 1, 2019. This was estimated to result in a \$108,200 of lost revenue at that time. Applications for the SPLIT program are made through the Region of Halton through the Employment and Social Services office.

Once applicants are approved for the SPLIT program, the sale of the monthly passes are made through transit agencies. Transit staff are responsible for verifying eligibility at the time of sale through the Region's online portal.

## **Strategy/process**

The SPLIT program has successfully operated for a number of years and the legal agreement is due for renewal between the Region of Halton and the City of Burlington. This is an annual process.

It is agreed that such an agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of the program is a good practice.

No operational changes to the program are suggested through the proposed agreement. There should be no direct impact to clients or staff as a result of this report.

This agreement with the Region of Halton is set to renew annually. In order to ease the process of renewals, this report recommends that the City Manager and City Clerk be authorized and directed to negotiate and execute, on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Burlington, the continuation of the SPLIT Pass Agreement with the Region of Halton.

## **Financial Matters:**

As of March 19, 2020 Burlington Transit mandated that passengers board the buses using the rear doors to increase the safety of passengers and operators. Burlington Transit will not be collecting fares until front door boarding can re-commence. SPLIT passes are not being sold during this time.

**Conclusion:**

After many years of successful operation, Burlington Transit and the Region of Halton would like to continue this agreement to continue providing subsidized transit passes for low income residents. This report's recommendations will ease the process of annual renewals.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Council. Final approval is by the City Manager.