



INFORMATION REQUEST

INFORMATION REQUEST #: IR-011-24

REQUESTED BY: Councillor Houston

TOPIC: Low Income Transit Pass

DATE OF REQUEST: November 5, 2024

DATE OF RESPONSE: November 6, 2024

QUESTION:

How important is the LITP program to the community? Are there ways that we can continue to provide low-cost/no-cost passes to community members without increasing the tax base; what would the impact of that be? Quantify the options that are outlined in the unfunded LITP business case.

RESPONSE:

For those that have been accessing the LITP program, it is extremely important. With the anticipated loss of the grant the unfunded business case identified an estimated \$70,000 “cost” to continue with the program.

The “cost” associated with the program is actually an estimation of revenue lost. The original assumption was that the majority of individuals currently qualified for the program would purchase a full pass if the program wasn’t available. In speaking with staff in Community Social Development, they don’t believe this to be 100% true. At the same time, the opposite would also not be true. In other words, if the program did not exist we can’t definitively say that no one would pay for the full pass.

The delta between the two scenarios above is the likely “cost” or lost revenue of the LITP program. Without having a more detailed understanding of the order of magnitude, Administration is committing to continuing with the LITP program for 2025 without the need for budget allocation. Administration will monitor the program throughout 2025 to further analyze the total impact from both a user perspective and any financial impacts. If the impact

to the budget is negligible, Administration will adjust the budget accordingly into 2026 and beyond. If the impact is more substantive, a future business case will be created. In either case, a report back to Council will be provided.

BACKGROUND:

As above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/TAXATION IMPACT:

No taxation impact for 2025. Future considerations may be developed dependent on the analysis and uptake in 2025.

Contact: David Wolanski, General Manager of Community and Protective Services