

Date: 2023-06-07

Subject: **Warriors Day Free Fares for Veterans**

Contact: Ivana Tomas, Director, Transit Services, Transit

Report Number: Brampton Transit-2023-535

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Ivana Tomas, Director, Transit Services, Transit to the Committee of Council Meeting of June 21, 2023, re: **Warriors Day Free Fares for Veterans** be received; and
2. That Council approves staff recommendations for free fares, allowing eligible Canadian Veterans and one companion free access on Brampton Transit; on the date of the Warriors Day parade, held in August of each year during the opening weekend of the Canadian National Exhibition. In 2023, the date is August 19.
3. That Council approves staff recommendations for allowing companions of Veteran's free fare on Brampton Transit on Remembrance Day.

Overview:

- **In June 2007 Council approved the Brampton Transit Veterans Transit Pass Program, providing free lifetime transit passes to eligible Veterans who are residents of Brampton.**
- **To inform this report, staff conducted benchmarking with other municipalities with respect to the Warriors Day Parade and Veteran initiatives. It was determined that four major transit service providers within the GTHA have been providing free service to eligible Veterans and companions in August on the date of the Warriors Day Parade each year.**
- **Staff are recommending that the free fares provided on Remembrance Day along with the use of the Veterans Transit Pass (VTP) would be expanded to include Warriors Day.**

- **Staff are recommending that the free fares provided on Remembrance Day for Veterans will now include a companion and the same will be applied for Warriors Day.**
- **Transit anticipates the revenue loss associated with the recommendations to be minimal and would be absorbed within the Transit operating budget.**

Background:

Established in 1921, The Warriors Day Parade takes place in August of each year during the opening weekend of The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Warriors Day Parade is an important Canadian tradition and a very significant event for Veterans and the brave people who currently serve in Canada's military, their families and general public.

This year will be the 102nd celebration of The Warriors Day Parade. This year's focus is honouring the Women of the Canadian Armed Forces, Emergency Services and The Homefront.

Current Situation:

City Council and Brampton Transit are proud to honour the accomplishments and sacrifices of all Canadian Armed Forces members.

In June 2007 Council approved the Brampton Transit Veterans Transit Pass Program, providing free lifetime transit passes to eligible Veterans who are residents of Brampton.

War veterans also ride free on Brampton Transit on Remembrance Day. A veteran can be identified by producing a Brampton Transit "War Veteran Pass" or any of the following items:

- Medals
- Berets
- Uniform
- Blazer

Benchmarking of Transit Systems:

Staff consulted with other transit systems in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area on how they commemorate Warriors Day.

It was determined that four major transit service providers within the GTHA have been providing free service to eligible Veterans and companions in August on the date of the Warriors Day Parade each year.

Transit System	Warriors Day Free Service
Burlington Transit	No
GO Transit	Yes – provides free service for Veterans, companion and currently serving members of the Canadian Military
Grand River Transit	No
Hamilton Street Railway	No
Milton Transit	No
MiWay Transit	Yes – provides free service for Veterans and companion
Oakville Transit	No
TTC	Yes – provides free service for Veterans and active members
York Region Transit	Yes – provides free service for Veterans and companion

Transit System	Remembrance Day Free Service
Burlington Transit	Yes – Veterans only
GO Transit	Yes – provides free service for Veterans and companion
Hamilton Street Railway	Yes – Veterans only
London Transit	Yes – Veterans only
MiWay Transit	Yes – provides free service for Veterans and companion
Oakville Transit	Yes – Veterans only
TTC	Yes – provides free service for Veterans and companion
York Region Transit	Yes – provides free service for Veterans and companion

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

Since 2007, 80 lifetime Veteran Transit Passes have been issued.

Based on data for the last five years of providing free fares to Veterans on Remembrance Day, Transit anticipates that the financial impact of providing free fare on Warriors Day for eligible Veterans and one companion, along with one companion on Remembrance Day, would be minimal and would be absorbed within the Transit operating budget.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report and recommendation support the Brampton is a Mosaic celebrating its diversity by effectively engaging, communicating, and supporting diverse groups across the city. Veterans and companions will have a barrier free opportunity to travel within Brampton on Warriors Day.

Conclusion:

Building on the success of the War Veterans Transit Pass program, staff recommends free fares, allowing companions of Canadian Veteran’s free access on Brampton Transit on Remembrance Day and extending the free fares for Veterans and a companion on Warriors Day.

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