



## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: February 27, 2019

Re: 2019 Toronto Transit Commission Increase to its Greater Toronto Area Weekly Transit Pass

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This memorandum is to advise Council that effective April 1, 2019, Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is increasing the cost of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Weekly Pass that affects York Region citizens.

**Since 1994, the Greater Toronto Area Weekly Pass has allowed travellers unlimited travel between the Toronto Transit Commission and 905 transit agencies at one price**

The GTA Weekly Pass is a TTC-produced pass and provides York Region citizens with unlimited travel on regular transit services on the TTC, Brampton, Mississauga and York Region Transit (YRT).

In 2006, a Council-approved revenue sharing agreement was executed between TTC and the three participating 905 transit agencies. The GTA Weekly Pass price is split between the transit agencies based on sales. The revenue is shared equitably after production costs with the TTC obtaining a small net financial gain to offset distribution costs. Each transit agency is responsible for selling passes from locations within the jurisdictional area in which they operate their transit system.

With the implementation of PRESTO on the TTC, it was anticipated the GTA Weekly Pass would be eliminated, with the expectation that PRESTO would provide a cross-boundary fare payment solution for PRESTO cardholders to travel across Steeles Avenue. The GTA Weekly Pass was scheduled to be discontinued at the end of 2018, but has since been extended in the absence of a PRESTO cross-boundary fare payment solution.

## **In January 2019, the Toronto Transit Commission approved increases to fares**

On January 24, 2019, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) Board approved a ten cent increase on token, PRESTO smart card e-purse, which is similar to a cash card, and cash fares, with the exception of the adult cash fare. Pass products are also increasing by approximately three per cent, with the GTA Weekly Pass rising to \$64.95 from \$63.00.

TTC requested participating agencies to review and agree to the GTA Weekly Pass price increase. The fare adjustment aligns with YRT's budgeted fare increase amount over the next four years.

Approximately 132,500 GTA Weekly Passes are sold in York Region each year, resulting in approximately \$3.8 million in revenue for YRT.

## **Staff and the Toronto Transit Commission continue to work with Metrolinx to find a solution that enables citizens travelling on both transit systems to use PRESTO as a fare payment option**

To date, PRESTO has not been able to implement an error-free, cross-boundary, technical fare payment solution to allow travellers to use the same PRESTO card between the two systems. As a result, YRT sells limited quantities of paper tickets and passes to travellers using both systems. The TTC will continue to produce and distribute the GTA Weekly Pass until a PRESTO fare payment solution for cross-boundary travel is implemented between YRT and TTC.

A possible cross-boundary solution will be tested in the second quarter of 2019. If successful, the TTC's intention is to discontinue the GTA Weekly Pass. Until then, YRT will continue to sell limited quantities of paper tickets and passes to travellers using both systems.

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Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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