



July 6, 2020

Chair and Members of the Public Works Committee  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8P 4Y5

Dear Chair & Member of the Public Works Committee:

Re: Transit Rates for College Students

Please accept this letter as our written delegation with respect to the Hamilton Street Transit (HSR) and their fare system for College students.

You may be aware that the City of Hamilton and the Mohawk Students' Association (Mohawk College) have an agreement for a University/College Transit pass program. This program provides students at Mohawk College with a mandatory program for unlimited transit on the HSR system for the semesters that they attend class.

The City of Hamilton, at their May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 council meeting, approved the suspension of the summer 2020 U-Pass program, due to the switch to online learning at Mohawk College, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent request was submitted to have the Fall 2020 U-Pass program suspended as Mohawk College will be operating under a hybrid model, with mostly online learning and approximately 30% of students needing to attend in-person labs and assessments. A decision on the Fall 2020 pass has not yet been made.

Further to our request to have the Fall pass suspended, we are requesting the Public Works Committee's support of the following:

***Recommendation:***

***That Mohawk College students who still require use of HSR transit, be allowed to do so, for Summer and Fall 2020, at the student rate, rather than the adult rate. This could be extended until the U-Pass program returns to normal.***

Currently, only elementary and post-secondary students can access transit at the student rate. The difference in cost is \$.45 cents (\$2.05 - \$2.50) for a paper ticket or PRESTO and \$19.80 (\$90.20-\$110) for a monthly pass.

For those students who still need to ride the bus – paying the cost of an adult pass will increase their transit expense by over 400% for a four-month semester, as students currently pay approximately \$106



for a four-month U-Pass. This, on top of the thousands of dollars that they pay for tuition, fees, books, etc. is extremely cumbersome on students, many of whom have had their work experience compromised due to COVID-19.

The Mohawk Students' Association has enjoyed a strong relationship with the Hamilton Street Railway and the City of Hamilton and we believe approving this request will only help to strengthen our ongoing relationship and the support that the City has always provided to its post-secondary students. We look forward to your consideration of our request.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garrett Blair'.

Garrett Blair  
President  
[garrett-blair@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:garrett-blair@mohawkcollege.ca)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Rolfe'.

Wendy Rolfe  
Interim Executive Director  
[wendy.rolfe@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:wendy.rolfe@mohawkcollege.ca)