



Hamilton

# CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
<b>From:</b>	Ron D. Smithson Seniors Advisory Committee
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Monthly Seniors Bus Pass (Report # SAC12001)</b>

## **Recommendation:**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee request that Council for the City of Hamilton direct the Transit Division (HSR) to:

- (a) introduce a senior monthly bus pass priced at \$20.00 and a single senior ticket priced at \$1.65 into the HSR 2013 fare structure; and,
- (b) circulate widely the brochure *For Safety's Sake: Safe Travel Tips For HSR's Senior Customers* which will include the notice of the senior bus fare rates.

## **Background:**

On April 13, 2012, members of the Seniors Advisory Committee Transportation Subcommittee brought a proposal to the Seniors Advisory Committee requesting support for introducing a senior monthly bus pass and senior bus tickets into the 2013 HSR fare structure. The Seniors Advisory Committee supports this proposal.

## **Analysis/Rationale:**

The present HSR fare structure consists of Adult & Student cash fare; Adult & Student monthly pass; Senior annual pass and Golden Age pass.

The present Senior annual bus pass fee of \$205 per year represents a significant one-time outlay of money. In order for a Senior annual bus pass to be cost effective, the senior would have to make more than 80 trips a year.

More than 14% of senior population has income below the poverty line<sup>1</sup>. Some seniors live outside of Hamilton for one or more months of the year. Many of these individuals would not buy the annual pass and therefore would be required to pay the adult cash fare, use personal transportation or not participate in activities that require travel beyond walking distance.

By introducing a monthly fare system for seniors, seniors who currently do not buy the annual pass would buy the monthly pass. If 5% of the seniors living below the poverty line purchased two monthly passes a year, this would represent an increase in revenue of \$22,000 for the HSR. Furthermore, if 5% of seniors, who travel outside of Hamilton on a regular basis, purchased three monthly passes a year, revenue would increase by \$11,250.

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<sup>1</sup> 2006 Census