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2012 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Alternative Strategies to Minimize the cost for Wheel-Trans of transporting Dialysis Patients

Issue:

Budget Committee, at its meeting of December 6, 2011, requested that the TTC Chief General Manager provide a Briefing Note to the wrap up meeting on alternative strategies to minimize the cost for Wheel-Trans of transporting dialysis patients.

Background:

- Ambulatory dialysis patients do not meet the eligibility criteria for Wheel-Trans service. To date, they have been afforded an exemption from the criteria, however, continuing budget pressures for Wheel-Trans and the City have necessitated the decision to discontinue this exemption in order to preserve service for Wheel-Trans customers who meet the criteria.
- There are approximately 800 ambulatory dialysis Wheel-Trans customers who take an average of 6 trips per week or 250,000 trips per year at a cost of about \$5 million.

Key Points:

- Ambulatory dialysis patients are provided with service utilizing the least expensive mode of transportation, namely contracted taxis, currently available to Wheel-Trans. The average trip cost is about \$20 and this compares favourably to the relatively higher cost of bus-operated service. Consequently, there is no cheaper alternative available.
- Alternative strategies for reducing the Wheel-Trans' cost of transporting these customers would be:
 - to not transport these customers because they do not meet the eligibility criteria; or
 - to continue to work with the local Toronto Hospital health network and the Kidney Foundation to obtain adequate funding for these trips from the Province.

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Date: December 9, 2011