

EX43.18.4



***TTCriders' deputation to the City Executive committee on Wednesday July 2, 2014
in support of the motion EX43.18 Toward a Policy Framework for Toronto Transit
Fare Equity.***

A member of TTCriders, Helen Liu, often speaks of her friend, a senior with cancer, who daily had to make the painful choice of either buying food or buying TTC tokens to visit her friends because she doesn't have the money to do both.

Those kinds of touch choices are being made by Torontonians every day because transit costs so much.

I am the chair of TTCriders. TTCriders is campaigning to increase service and lower fares for all Torontonians, especially those in need. We educate TTC users on what their elected officials are doing to improve the TTC so riders can make an informed choice when they vote.

We have three recommendations to make.

1. Approve this great motion to come up with a plan to give low income passes to TTC users and make transit more affordable.
2. Be inclusive in deciding who is eligible for a low-income pass. At a minimum it should include ODSB and OW recipients and all those living below the low-income cut off, including the unemployed.
3. Find new money to fund a low-income pass, don't cut service or make other users pay.

We are making these recommendations because:

Fares are too high, especially for the high number of low-income people who rely on the TTC to live their lives. Precarious work is on the rise. Wages are stagnating. But fares keep rising faster than inflation. Low income transit riders in your riding need some pocket book relief.

Many other municipalities have low income passes, including Hamilton, Kingston, Guelph, Calgary, Windsor, York, Peel, and more. Toronto should be a leader in the race to build a fair transit system, not a laggard.

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The TTC is already very efficient, getting the least amount of government support per ride than anywhere else in North America. We need to move beyond the false fare versus services debate to a lower fares and more service solution. That's why we need more government support for transit. Everyone benefits when we make lower fares and increase service, including drivers who experience congestion relief.

This is why we are calling you to support this motion and our recommendations to make transit more affordable for all.

Thank you.

Jessica Bell
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Bell', is positioned to the right of the printed name and contact information.