

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM55.30	ACTION			Ward:All
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Making the Union-Pearson Express Fare More Affordable, Competitive and Fair for Toronto Residents - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to request Metrolinx to set the passenger fare for the Union-Pearson Express at a rate that is affordable for most Torontonians and competitive with other forms of transportation to Pearson Airport.
2. City Council direct the City Manager to request the Greater Toronto Airports Authority to not require Metrolinx to implement a \$1.85 parking fee to the passenger fare for the Union-Pearson Express.

Summary

Metrolinx's Union-Pearson Express line is a welcome addition to Toronto's transit network. For too long, our City has been one of the few world centres without rapid transit to its International Airport.

While residents are pleased that this critical infrastructure appears to be on budget and will be ready to open for the Pan Am games next year, they have some major concerns with emerging cost details that limit the accessibility of this line. These troubling details include potentially high fares and a fee in lieu of parking paid to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority.

While the passenger fare has yet to be confirmed, media reports have estimated that the new line could cost riders upwards of \$30 per trip. This cost may, or may not, have an effect on business or international travelers but it would barely be competitive with taxis or limousines for residents. Common sense would dictate that if a resident living anywhere other than downtown (within close proximity to Union Station) can get picked up from their house and taken to the airport for about \$50-60, they may opt to spend the extra money to avoid the additional time as the cost differential is not that substantial. Further, a couple or a family might find it actually more expensive to take the Union Pearson Express. The passenger fare must be

made accessible for Toronto residents.

Another troubling consumer cost detail associated with the Union-Pearson Express is the \$1.85 fee passengers are being charged for not parking at the airport. The City of Toronto and other municipal governments in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area are actively encouraging residents to use public transit. This fee would penalize air travelers for making a choice that helps fight congestion. This potential fee runs counter to our public policy goals and should not be implemented.

(Submitted to City Council on August 25 and 26, 2014 as MM55.30)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM55.30