

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM55.23	ACTION			Ward:All
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Fares to ride the Union Pearson Express (UP Express) - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** 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 Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council request Metrolinx to set the fares for the Union Pearson Express (UP Express) at rates comparable to GO Transit fares.
2. City Council reiterate its preference for additional stops along the UP Express, including one at Eglinton Avenue West to integrate with the Eglinton LRT, and with other stops to be considered including Liberty Village, the Junction, Carleton Village, Jane Street, Etobicoke North, Woodbine and Humber.

Summary

With the Union Pearson Express (UP Express) nearing completion, the as-of-yet unanswered question related to fares to ride the UP Express is soon to be answered. It has been estimated that the fare will be set at somewhere between \$20-\$30, with recent media reports indicating that the fare will include a \$2 fee, to be paid to the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, to offset parking revenue that will be lost.

Now is the time to reiterate the position previously held by City Council that the UP Express can and should serve citizens of Toronto in a way that is both accessible and affordable. By setting the fare at an amount of \$20-\$30, many residents of Toronto will not be able to afford this new connection to downtown Toronto and to the airport. In addition, it is unlikely that those working at the airport will be able to take advantage of this new opportunity to leave their vehicles at home as it will not be cost-effective or affordable to do so.

The UP Express as planned, with stops only at Bloor and Weston stations, has been set up to fail. With its limited stops and unaffordable prices, it is hard to foresee this line attracting the ridership necessary to support its operation.

City Council has previously advocated for the UP Express to be an integral part of the City's transportation network by expanding its services (i.e. adding additional stops) and ensuring the trips

are affordable and in line with existing public transit alternatives (i.e. GO Transit).

(Submitted to City Council on August 25, 2014 as MM55.23)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM55.23