

September 14, 2017

To: Members
Community & Protective Services Committee

Re: 2018 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences Transit Service

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the City of Regina provide the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Congress) with in-kind Transit service in the amount of \$39,700.
2. That, in addition to the in-kind service funding, a grant of \$36,000 be funded from the General Fund Reserve be provided to the Congress.
3. That the report be forwarded to the September 25, 2017 meeting of City Council for approval.

CONCLUSION

Providing transportation for the 2018 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences will assist the event's attendees with an easy mode of transportation, while showcasing the City of Regina. The Congress will have many attendees at different hotel locations throughout the City that need transportation to and from the University. The charter rate value of the proposed transit service, as per the Transit Fare Bylaw, for the Congress is \$113,000. The actual cost of providing the transit service is \$73,300.

BACKGROUND

The annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is the convergence of over 70 scholarly associations each holding their annual conference under one umbrella. The Congress brings together academics, researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners to share findings, refine ideas, and build partnerships that help shape the future of Canada.

Congress will be held in Regina on May 26th to June 1st in 2018. This is the first time the annual event has been hosted in Regina, and is anticipated to have 6,000 to 8,000 delegates in attendance. Based on a study by Economic Development Regina, the 2018 Congress is expected to generate \$8 million in additional spending in the city, and create 107 new jobs with an additional GDP impact of \$6.2 million for Regina. Previous cities that have hosted the event include Toronto, Calgary and Ottawa, with Saskatoon having hosted the event in 2007.

The City of Regina received a request on March 23rd, 2017 from the Congress to provide complimentary transportation to and from their annual event. The request includes allowing

delegates to use our regular Transit system free of charge, as well as provide extra charter service from hotels in the south, east and downtown to the University of Regina where the Congress will be held.

DISCUSSION

City Administration met with Congress representatives in July to determine how much bus service would be required for the event. The Congress delegates will be spread out through the City staying at various hotels locations. The bus service would include running regular charter buses from hotels in the south, downtown and east locations, transporting delegates to and from the University of Regina. Lastly, free transit service throughout the city will be available to delegates for the duration of the Congress as long as they present their delegate ID to Transit operators. It was determined the charter services includes 660 hours of service at a value of \$110,000 and allows delegates to use regular transit worth \$3,000. The total request is worth \$113,000.

The \$113,000 value of services is calculated using the 2018 charter rates as set out in the Transit Fare Bylaw. The charter rates contain a profit portion, with the actual cost for transit to perform the above service at \$73,300. This cost must be covered at a minimum to ensure there is no financial loss to the City.

Administration recommends the City charge Congress the actual amount of the Transit services and therefore provide \$39,700 as in-kind transit service. The difference between the charter rates (\$113,000) and actual cost (\$73,700) is \$39,700.

In addition, the City is recommending providing a cash grant to the Congress with the value of \$36,000. This would further assist the Congress with the provision of the transportation service.

In summary, the City would charge the actual amount of the service (\$73,700), and would give a cash grant (\$36,000) which would result in the Congress paying \$37,300 for the Transit services.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

The value of the in-kind Transit service that would be charged to provide the service is \$39,700. This amount is the revenue that would normally be made on a charter of this size, however, would be forgone in this instance.

In addition to the in-kind Transit service, a cash grant of \$36,000 to the Congress would come from the General Fund Reserve.

Environmental Implications

None with respect to this report.

Policy and/or Strategic Implications

None with respect to this report.

Other Implications

The service for the Congress overlaps the annual Mosaic event on May 31st and June 1st. Both events happen during peak service times and there may not be enough Transit buses to accommodate both events during the afternoon peak period. There may be a need to bring in a third party service provider to help with transportation, however, Transit is committed to minimize that possibility in order to provide consistent service to the delegates.

Accessibility Implications

Transit buses are all fully accessible and will be able to meet the needs of Congress delegates.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications are required at this point.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The recommendations contained in this report require City Council approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad Bells
Director of Transit

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Onrait
Executive Director,
City Services