

## Sustainable Transportation Initiative Pilot Project

### Discounted Transit Pass Program – Information Package

Now that CUPE 116 members have all returned to work and campus is running as close normal as we have seen in the last few years, we are pleased to announce the start of the Sustainable Transportation Initiative Pilot Project. Flowing from the last round of bargaining, the Union and the University signed LOU #24 (attached), which established a joint committee to develop and implement a pilot project to support sustainable transportation initiatives. This initiative was a deliberate effort by the Union, agreed to and supported by the University, to mitigate transportation costs in a meaningful way for as many CUPE 116 members as possible, focusing on those who need it most.

**Starting in June 2022**, a Discounted Transit Pass Program will be offered to eligible members to support the use of transit to get to and from work. Eligible members include regular employees on Schedule A at or below pay grade 11a or on Schedule B at pay grades 1 and 2. The program will provide eligible members a **50% discount on a monthly transit pass** for zone 1, 2 or 3 passes.

We have heard for years about the impact of commuting costs and we see this as a successful development in creating more affordable, environmentally friendly ways to get to campus. In addition, with the current economic climate and rising fuel prices, we are happy to be able put this program into place now. We will be monitoring this pilot closely and will make refinements as they arise to increase its success.

LOU# 24 is not limited to public transit alone; we are looking into and considering ways to support those who take other sustainable transit modes. In the future, we will be looking for members to join the committee as we consider and expand into other avenues.

In order to participate in the Program you will need a compass card and provide consent for a payroll deduction for your portion of the monthly pass. Enrollment has to occur by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the start date of the pass, in order for us to get the information to TransLink and process the discount. **To sign up** you will need to visit the **Access Desk** located inside the UBC Bookstore. You'll need your Compass Card and Photo ID and to know what zone pass you need to commute to campus from your home. **Registration opens on April 25, 2022!**

Additional information and more details on the sign up and terms of the program are provided in the attached FAQ.

## Discounted Transit Pass Program – FAQ

### (CUPE 116 – Letter of Understanding #24)

#### 1. Who is eligible?

- a. Regular status employees as per Article 3.06 (a) in the CUPE 116 Collective Agreement who fall under pay grades:
  - i) Schedule A: Pay Grades 11a and below or,
  - ii) Schedule B: Pay Grades 1 and 2, are eligible.

#### 2. What is the Discounted Transit Pass Program?

- a. The program is offered to eligible employees to support the use of transit to get to and from the UBC campus with a 50% discount on adult monthly zone 1, 2 or 3 transit passes.

#### 3. How will the discounted transit pass be paid for?

- a. The University and Union will pay for 50% of your monthly transit pass as a result of the Letter of Understanding #24 of the CUPE 116 Collective Agreement. The remaining 50% of the cost will be paid by you, the employee, through payroll deduction.

#### 4. How much is the monthly transit pass and what are the employee/employer portions?

ADULT PASS	EMPLOYEE PORTION:	EMPLOYER PORTION:	TOTAL COST:
1-ZONE	\$50.125	\$50.125	\$100.25
2-ZONE	\$67.00	\$67.00	\$134.00
3-ZONE	\$90.525	\$90.525	\$181.05

#### TransLink Fare Increase effective July 1, 2022:

ADULT PASS	EMPLOYEE PORTION:	EMPLOYER PORTION:	TOTAL COST:
1-ZONE	\$51.275	\$51.275	\$102.55
2-ZONE	\$68.55	\$68.55	\$137.10
3-ZONE	\$92.60	\$92.60	\$185.20

For the most up to date transit fare pricing, please visit TransLink's [website](#).

#### 5. How do I sign up?

- a. If you are interested in signing up for the Discounted Transit Pass Program you will need to do the following:
  - i. If you don't already have a compass card, purchase one from any local SkyTrain station or SeaBus terminal. For a full list of options see the TransLink [website](#).
  - ii. [Register](#) your compass card with TransLink if you haven't already done so. This will allow you to quickly manage lost or stolen cards.
  - iii. Visit the Access Desk located inside the UBC Bookstore at 6200 University Boulevard. Bring your compass card and photo ID and know what zone pass you need to commute to campus from your home. Check [Home | UBC Parking](#) for hours of operation of the Access Desk.
  - iv. All employees are required to review these FAQ's as well as the Compass Card [terms and conditions of use](#).

**6. When do I have to sign up by?**

- a. You must sign up by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to activate your monthly transit pass for the following month, no exceptions. For example, if you would like to purchase a 1-zone monthly transit pass for June 1<sup>st</sup>, you must register at the Access Desk in the Bookstore no later than May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Do I have to register every month?**

- a. No, once you register the monthly discounted transit pass will renew every month and will be ongoing until you advise UBC Parking you'd like to cancel (see FAQ 9 for how to cancel).

*Note, the Access Desk is part of UBC Parking.*

**8. Do I have to sign up for a defined period before I can cancel?**

- a. Yes, you must remain enrolled for a minimum three-month period before you can cancel. After the three-month period, you will need to notify UBC Parking if you wish to cancel (see FAQ 9 for how to cancel).

**9. How do I cancel my monthly discounted transit pass?**

- a. Cancellations are processed the month prior to the effective cancellation date.
- b. You must e-mail [parking.support@ubc.ca](mailto:parking.support@ubc.ca) with your name and employee number by 12 noon on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, or by 12 noon on the business day before the 10<sup>th</sup> if it is a weekend or holiday.
- c. You will receive an e-mail response confirming your effective transit pass cancellation date.

**10. How will the discounted transit pass be processed through payroll deduction?**

- a. Once you register for the Program at the Access Desk, your information will be sent to Payroll to process your portion of the transit pass. Payroll will deduct your portion of the transit pass across the two pay periods in the month you enroll. For example, if you sign up for a 2-zone monthly transit pass for July 1<sup>st</sup>, the employee portion you owe is \$68.55. Payroll will deduct \$34.27 from your paycheque on June 15<sup>th</sup> and another \$34.27 from your paycheque on June 30<sup>th</sup>. TransLink will be notified of your enrollment and will load your compass card with the applicable fare effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Please note, June 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> are approximate dates and may vary based on the pay period dates.*

**11. Can I purchase a discounted transit pass for a family member or share it with others?**

- a. No. The Discounted Transit Pass Program is for eligible UBC employees to commute to and from campus by transit and to use for other personal use, but is not to be shared or transferred. The University will be receiving aggregate data from TransLink and the feasibility and sustainability of this program will be based on usage, TransLink fare rates and funding.

**12. What happens to my transit pass if I take a leave of absence?**

- a. Please contact your Manager and HR Advisor to discuss the nature and length of your leave.

**13. What if I move to another position and that position deems me ineligible for the discounted transit pass or I leave UBC?**

- a. Employees must meet the eligibility criteria in order to enroll and continue in the program. UBC Parking and the Access Desk will receive a list of eligible employees on a regular basis to ensure compliance.
- b. If you do lose your eligibility, your transit pass will continue to the end of the current month and then will not be renewed.
- c. If you leave UBC, notify [parking.support@ubc.ca](mailto:parking.support@ubc.ca) including the date you are leaving UBC. They will be able to help you through the process.

**14. What if my Compass Card is lost or stolen?**

- a. Notify TransLink by calling their call centre at 604-398-2042. You will also be assisted with the replacement process for the current month.
- b. Notify UBC Parking by e-mailing [parking.support@ubc.ca](mailto:parking.support@ubc.ca) your name, employee number and your new compass card number to ensure your compass card will get renewed for the following month.

**15. What if I plan to travel in a zone that isn't covered by my transit pass?**

- a. TransLink will set up your monthly pass only for the number of zones specified to them by UBC. If you plan to travel additional zones periodically, put a stored value on your card prior to travelling, to cover the extra travel. If you do not have stored value on your card to cover the extra zone(s), your card will go into a negative state and the gates will not open on your next journey, regardless of having a pass on your card.

**16. How does this discounted transit pass impact my taxes?**

- a. The employer paid portion of the transit pass is a non-cash taxable benefit which will be assessed on a pay period basis. This means that the employer paid portion is subject to Canada Pension Plan Contributions and Income Tax. The annual employer paid transit pass will be reported on your T4 in Box 14 and Code 40.

**17. This is a pilot program, what does that mean?**

- a. Per the terms of LOU #24, the Discounted Transit Pass Program is a pilot project and is contingent on numerous factors such as sufficient uptake and participation in the program, appropriate usage of the transit passes as per the intended purpose described above and adequate funding.

**18. Will I be notified if the pilot program ends?**

- a. Yes, employees enrolled in the Program will be provided with as much advance notice as possible prior to the termination of the Program.



Dear Passholder:

Welcome to Compass! If you are new to TransLink's electronic FareCard and/or to using a monthly pass, we encourage you to read the enclosed Compass Customer Guide, call our call centres, and/or go online to have your questions answered (see below for contact information).

What you need to know:

- We encourage you to register your card to protect your pass and any stored value balance, in the event your card is lost or stolen. Registration also allows you to review your travel and transactions online.
- Your pass only covers travel for the number of zones specified to us by your employer. If you plan to travel additional zones periodically, please put a small amount of stored value on your card *prior to traveling*, to cover the extra travel. If you do not have stored value on your card to cover the extra zone(s), your card will go into a negative state and the gates will not open on your next journey, regardless of having a pass on your card.
- Please remove your card from your purse or wallet to tap or your tap may not register and you may be charged for extra zones.
- If your pass is lost or stolen (and it's registered) call the call centre at 604.398.2042 immediately to have it blocked. The call centre will assist you with the replacement process for the current month. As soon as you have a new card you must notify your administrator so that your next month's pass can be loaded to your new card. If your card is not registered only your administrator can assist you with replacing the pass that was on the card.

Who to contact:

- Card Registration: [www.compasscard.ca](http://www.compasscard.ca) or 604.398.2042
- Questions about transactions on your Compass card: 604.398.2042 or [customerservice@compasscard.ca](mailto:customerservice@compasscard.ca)
- Lost or Stolen card: 604.398.2042 **and** your company administrator
- Questions regarding your pass as a benefit through your company: your company administrator.
- Trip planning or scheduling: [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca) or 604.953.3333
- General Information: [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca) or 604.953.3333
- Comments regarding service: email <http://feedback.translink.ca/> or 604.953.3333.
- Compass FAQ <https://www.compasscard.ca/Help>

Thank you for using Compass!



**LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING #24**  
**Sustainable Transportation Initiative Pilot Project**

The University and Union agree to establish a joint committee within one hundred and twenty (120) days to develop and implement a pilot project to support sustainable transportation initiatives. The terms of reference for the committee are:

1. Eligibility criteria will be for the following pay grades:
  - a) Schedule A: Compensation rates at Pay Grades 11a and below
  - b) Schedule B: Pay Grades 1 and 2
2. The Committee shall consider subsidizing public transportation, including discounting Compass Cards for sale through University Community Services, car and van pools, and other sustainable transportation initiatives.
3. Single occupancy vehicles and single occupancy car share services shall not be considered.
4. The Committee shall consider administrative efficiency as a criterion in the development of the pilot project.
5. The Committee shall ensure that if any benefit or subsidy constitutes a taxable benefit, that the administration of the project includes compliance with taxation requirements.
6. The University shall provide \$75,000 per year in funding for the pilot project.

Dated: June 8, 2019

For the University

**“Mike Vizsolyi”**

Senior Employee Relations Manager

For the Union

**“David Lance”**

President Local 116