



# 2023-DRT-02

## Update on U-Pass and Durham Region Transit Service to Post-Secondary Campuses in Durham

Transit Executive Committee

January 11, 2023



## Clarifying recent comments/statements

*“The OTSU has seen routes 310, 401, 417, 910, 915B, C and D and 950 have all been phased out since 2018”*

- ✓ 310: Merged with 304 in September 2019, 304 segment to north Oshawa campus merged with 302 in 2020
- ✓ 401: Rebranded to Pulse route 901
- ✓ 417: Replaced by 905 and 920
- ✓ 910: Replaced by 917 and 405 for service to Trent
- ✓ 915: Direct service replaced with connections for customers west of Thickson via transfer to 905, 920, or 901
- ✓ 950: Rebranded 905 with extension to Whitby GO Stations

*“Transit reductions that were put in place for COVID-19 have for the most part remained in place despite a near 100 per cent return to campus”*

- ✓ *52 percent increase in number of trips serving north Oshawa campus*



# Service to post secondary campuses

1. Pre-2014: Circuitous, radial, one-way loop routes
2. 2023: Grid network, backbone of several high frequency routes
  1. Grid network enables higher frequency at a lower cost by reducing the number of routes and duplication, and minimizing transfer and travel times
3. Service changes throughout 2021 and 2022 responded to emerging travel patterns and align to objective to operate frequent, reliable, and sustainable service for all customers
4. Why 915 stays on Taunton?
  1. Overall greater benefit to customers
  2. Customer travelling between Harmony Terminal and Ajax Station benefit from a 15-minute reduction in travel time and more direct journey
  3. 457 per cent increase in number of customers crossing Simcoe street on 915 compared to same period in 2019
  4. One transfer to 905, 920 or 901 for travel to campus

## Resident access to campuses in 2023 compared to 2019

Campus	Residents with direct access to campus (on bus ride)	Residents with access to campus via one or two bus ride (one transfer or less)	Number of DRT trips serving campus
North Oshawa campus	50 per cent	90 per cent	52 per cent
Trent University Durham campus	98. per cent	17 per cent	-7 per cent
Durham College Whitby campus	57 per cent	33 per cent	19 per cent



# U-Pass revenue and value

1. Universal pass programs rely on mandatory fare charge applied to the entire student population that allows U-Pass prices to be lower than the amount students would otherwise pay
2. Benefits to all parties
  - a. Consistent revenue for agencies to support better planning and forecasting
  - b. Unlimited travel for students, for school, work, and social
  - c. More affordable housing options for students to live further from campus
  - d. Reduced traffic congestion in and around campuses, cost avoidance by post-secondary institutions for car-based infrastructure
  - e. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from student transportation



# U-Pass facts

- 2019: U-Pass ridership 26 per cent of total
  - Total U-Pass revenues \$6.6 million or 23 per cent of total fare revenues (\$28.4 million)
  - 7 per cent of total operating expenditures
- Current U-Pass (2022-23 academic year) rate \$147.25 per four-month semester (\$36.81 per month - 69 per cent discount on adult monthly pass cost of \$117.00)
  - Nearly \$10.00 less per month than DRT's \$46.00 Transit Assistance Program monthly pass

## DRT fares and discounts/savings compared to standard fare

Pass Product	Cost Per Month (or equivalent)	Cost Per Four Months	Discount from Adult Pass	Total Four Month Savings
Adult (standard fare)	\$117.00	\$468.00	-	-
Youth	\$93.50	\$374.00	20 per cent	\$94.00
Youth 10-month loyalty pass (Y10)*	\$76.05	\$304.20	35 per cent	\$163.80
Senior	\$46.00	\$184.00	61 per cent	\$284.00
Transit Assistance Program (TAP)	\$46.00	\$184.00	61 per cent	\$284.00
U-Pass	\$36.81	\$147.25	69 per cent	\$320.75

## 2022 Survey of Canadian agencies

- Range of monthly equivalent U-Pass rates is \$12.82 to \$37.50 compared to standard monthly pass rates between \$73.50 and \$106.00.
- Range of monthly equivalent discount rates of 53 per cent to 83 per cent between U-Pass and standard fare
  - DRT's discount rate is 69 per cent
- Monthly U-Pass cost per revenue vehicle hour
  - Average cost per revenue vehicle hour is \$0.0012, whereas DRT is slightly lower at \$0.0008.





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## Staff response to recommendations from OTSU delegation, December 8, 2022

OTSU Recommendation: Introduce frequent, express routes between residential areas and north Oshawa campus.

Staff Response: Recommendation inconsistent with transit planning and design best practices. Introducing routes that duplicate service on existing network highly inefficient. Advancing the overall transit network through increasing investment will benefit all residents and customers by providing access to a more frequent, reliable transit network.

OTSU Recommendation: Increase public transportation services in municipalities with less transit availability to discourage single-occupancy commutes.

Staff Response: Recommendation is consistent with the Ridership growth through accelerated investment in revenue service report (2021-DRT-32). To reach the transit modal shift of the Transportation Master Plan by 2031, DRT requires significant annual operating and capital investments.




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**Staff response to recommendations from OTSU delegation,  
December 8, 2022 (continued)**

**OTSU Recommendation:** Equitable access be provided to transit services across Durham Region.

**Staff Response:** Since September 2020 and launch of enhanced On Demand service, all Durham residents have access to public transit services regardless of where they work, live or are travelling within the Region. DRT service levels based on the established DRT service guidelines that ensure all residents can access public transit within approved funding/budget.



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## Staff response to OTSU comments regarding January 2023 service changes

- Adjustments required to maintain service reliability within existing resources
- Same number 901 trips between downtown Oshawa and north campus
- Same number 900 trips between Pickering and Oshawa
- Capacity consistent with current demand
- Expanded scheduled service in Bowmanville and Pickering to provide more residents access
- 52 per cent more trips serving north Oshawa campus compared to 2019



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## Thank you

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