

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Free Wi-Fi on all TTC Buses and Streetcars

INFORMATION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board receive this report for information.

FUNDING

The funding requirements will be determined once the technology and the funding model have been identified as part of the CAD/AVL project.

BACKGROUND

At the April 30, 2014 Board Meeting, staff were directed to report back to the June 24, 2014 Board meeting regarding the feasibility of providing customers with free Wi-Fi services on all TTC buses and streetcars. The report is to examine:

- a) The capital and operating costs of providing such a service using the traditional budget process; and
- b) The possibility of providing this service free to the TTC and its customers through private/public partnerships.

DISCUSSION

The Computer Aided Dispatch/ Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) project is underway. The project scope includes the identification and installation of the base technology required to enable Wi-Fi on all buses and streetcars making them essentially 'Wi-Fi ready'. As part of developing the final installation a further update on the feasibility, current practices for other major transit agencies, costs and the public/private partnership funding opportunities of providing customers with Wi-Fi access on all buses and streetcars will be completed.

The deployment of the underpinning Wi-Fi technology will be part of a major fleet retrofit for the CAD/AVL project. It is staff's intent to explore potential opportunities for integrating the CAD/AVL deployments with the deployment of the Presto fare card technologies scheduled during the same time frame. The estimated start date for the production deployment of the CAD/AVL systems including the necessary Wi-Fi technology to the bus and streetcar fleets is scheduled for first quarter 2016.

JUSTIFICATION

This report is for information only.

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