



Update on Intercampus Transportation between UTSC and the St. George Campus

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Background:

At the December 12th, 2013, Governing Council meeting, student leaders raised the idea of shuttle bus between UTSC and the St. George campus. A few governors concurred that the shuttle bus was a good idea and the Chair asked the Vice-Provost, Students & First Entry Divisions to look into the matter and report back at the Feb. 27, 2014 meetings. To date, conversations have been held with the Vice-President and Principal, the CAO and his staff at UTSC. Additionally, the Assistant Director Ancillary & Student Services, Business Services was consulted at UTM.

In 2013-2014 fall and winter sessions, approximately 550 UTSC students – 330 undergraduate and 220 graduate - are registered in courses on the St. George campus per session. In the same time period, approximately 320 St. George students – primarily undergraduate - are registered in UTSC courses.

Currently, a TTC express bus connects the UTSC campus with the Kennedy subway station. Provided that the TTC service is fully operational, the travel time is approximately 50 minutes between the UTSC and St. George campuses. Travel time by car can range from 30-90 minutes depending on traffic conditions. UTSC administration has made efforts regarding transit over the years to better serve their community members. For example, UTSC has partnered with Durham transit to provide a direct route from the Durham region, using Durham transit buses, to the campus. Additionally, they are investigating a similar arrangement with Markham transit.

History of the UTSC Shuttle Bus:

- Prior to 1990, a shuttle bus operated between the UTSC and St. George Campuses
- In 1990, the service ceased due to low utilization, high costs and potential risks. The potential risk relates to the ownership and therefore maintenance of the buses. The bus was funded by the University's operating budget and operated by the Physical Plant.

- In 2006-7, a study of the potential demand was conducted based on calls to reconsider the shuttle. UTSC undergraduate students registered in St. George courses, graduate students, faculty and staff were surveyed. Based on the information gathered, conservative estimates indicated 6.3% or 665 of the UTSC population would use the shuttle. Graduate students (70 students at the time) most favored the shuttle service.

UTM Shuttle Bus:

The UTM shuttle bus operates across the transit jurisdictions of Mississauga Transit and the TTC. UTM also offers a shuttle bus to Sheridan College. Ridership continues to grow resulting in a need for additional trips. UTM students pay for the bus through the UTM student services fee as part of their compulsory non-academic incidental fees. U of T faculty and staff, students from other campuses, and non-university community members may ride the bus for a fare of \$6.00 per one-way trip. The combination of fees and fares just cover the expenditures for the service (\$1.6 million for the St. George and Sheridan College shuttles in 2012-2013).

Shuttle Service in Toronto

What differentiates the UTM shuttle from a proposed UTSC shuttle is that the UTSC service would need to operate solely within the City of Toronto and would therefore be subject to TTC restrictions. In 1954, the TTC became the exclusive and sole provider of public transportation services in Toronto. And, according to the 2006 City of Toronto Act (s. 395(1)) any party is prohibited from operating or maintaining a local passenger transportation system unless the bus is owned and operated by an organization solely for its own purposes without charging a fee. Therefore, the University would not be able to collect fares for this service.

Other shuttle services in Toronto such as the Sunnybrook Shuttle (between the Bayview site to Grenville and Holland Centre) and the York University Shuttles (Keele Street to Glendon College and Keele Street to the GO station) do not charge fares and are available for use by the respective community members only.

Next Steps in conjunction with UTSC colleagues:

- 1) Conduct a survey at both UTSC and St. George regarding intercampus transportation access and quality. The survey will be conducted to determine the following:
 - the need for students, faculty and staff to travel between the two campuses and if this need is best met by a shuttle service or improved

TTC service to the campus through a greater number of express buses between the campus and the Kennedy subway station

- the days and times when transportation is required
 - the environmental impacts of a shuttle service
 - the willingness of students to pay for a shuttle service
- 2) In addition to the direct shuttle bus option, investigate improved TTC service based on the results of the survey.

Conclusion:

Improved transportation between campuses is a positive step towards increasing cross-campus engagement by promoting greater access to classes, services and activities available at the respective campuses. This is evidenced by the UTM shuttle service which is well utilized by not only students, but staff and faculty as well. However, there are substantive considerations that must be fully explored prior to moving ahead with a UTSC-St. George shuttle service. The first step is to obtain the data necessary to inform the next steps.

Appendix: UTSC and UTM Comparison

	UTSC	UTM
Population	11,600 undergraduate students 206 graduate students 760 faculty and staff	12,600 undergraduate students, 523 graduate students, over 2,000 faculty and staff
Travel Time	50-90 minutes (50 minutes by TTC with express bus)	80 minutes provided for shuttle. Travel time can range from 60 – 80 minutes.
# of Buses	4 (proposed)	9
Hours	M-Th: 7am – 11:45pm, 24 trips F: 7am – 8:15pm, 20 trips (based on 2008 study)	M-Th 5:55am - 10:35 (UTM to SG), 43 Trips (SG to UTM: 6:55am – 11:35) Sat: 8am – 9pm, 7 Trips Sun: 10am – 7:15, 3 Trips
Costs	\$638,000 + start-up and administrative costs (as of 2008)	\$1.6 million (include Sheridan College shuttle costs)
Funding	Fares could not be collected; therefore the funding would need to come from the operating budget and student service fees. If funding was split proportionately between students and faculty/staff, the student service fee would be very roughly \$50.00 per f/t students.	UTM Students pay as part of the student service fee. In 2013/14, full-time students paid \$46.58 and part-time \$9.31. Others purchase tickets at a cost of \$6.00 per trip or a monthly bus pass (price ranges by month between \$125 and \$500)