



## Annual Youth Transit U-PASS Now Available Online

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC –Youth living in the municipality of Victoria can now apply for a free BC Transit Youth U-PASS valid from February 1 to December 31, 2021.

“I am excited to see the Youth U-PASS program roll out for next year,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “This annual pass makes it easier for youth and ensures they have access to free transit services for the whole year. I believe giving youth access to free transit is fundamentally important and will create lifelong transit users, keeping more cars off the roads and reducing emissions in the long term.”

The Youth U-PASS program allows youth 6 to 18 years of age to explore the city by transit and travel for free to school, work, shopping and recreation. Children under 6 already ride for free on the Victoria Regional Transit System. Youth can apply online for their U-PASS and the annual pass card with picture identification will be mailed to their home. The pass is valid for all of the Victoria Regional Transit System.

This municipal program is the first of its kind in the province, with a goal to encourage low-carbon, affordable transportation while creating lifelong transit riders that will lead to fewer vehicles and less traffic congestion. The U-PASS program is provided with the support of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission.

Victoria youth, their parents and/or guardians will be required to provide documentation and confirm their eligibility to participate in the City of Victoria’s free Youth U-PASS program. Youth that cannot apply online, can apply in-person at the City’s Public Service Centre. Questions about the program can be directed to the City’s Public Service Team by emailing [upass@victoria.ca](mailto:upass@victoria.ca) or by calling 250.385.5711.

Currently 12 per cent of trips to, from and within Victoria are made on public transit. As a part of *GO Victoria*, the City’s mobility strategy that aims to improve affordability and reduce GHG emissions, Victoria has set a target to achieve 25 per cent transit mode share by 2030.

To apply for the youth U-PASS online, visit: [upass.victoria.ca](https://upass.victoria.ca)

A list of approved documents and more information can be found at: [victoria.ca/transit](https://victoria.ca/transit)

— 30 —

**For More Information:**

Bill Eisenhauer  
Head of Engagement  
City of Victoria  
250.858.1061  
[beisenhauer@victoria.ca](mailto:beisenhauer@victoria.ca)