

Travel Approval - UITP International Association Of Public Transport Light Rail Conference - Istanbul, Turkey

Meeting Date: April 23, 2008

Subject: Travel Approval - UITP International Association Of Public Transport Light Rail Conference - Istanbul, Turkey

Action Item: X

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission approve a travel request for Mr. Stephen Lam, Superintendent – LRV Engineering to attend the UITP, International Association of Public Transportation Light Rail Conference in Istanbul Turkey from June 11 to 13, 2008 at a total estimated cost of \$5,104.00.

Funding

This expenditure can be accommodated within the approved 2008 TTC Operating budget.

Background

The UITP International Association of Public Transportation is a pre-eminent international organization for public transport authorities, policy decision-makers, scientific institutes and the public transport supply and service industry, who host a biannual conference. This conference focuses on all aspects of Light Rail Transit, and will offer a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in LRT technology.

Discussion

On June 15, 2007 the Province of Ontario announced funding for the implementation of Move Ontario 2020 GTAH rapid transit expansion program, which includes provision of approximately \$8.0 billion dollars for the implementation of the TTC/City of Toronto's Transit City Light Rail Plan. This plan calls for the purchase of 364 Light Rail Vehicles. The Commission is also in the process of procuring 204 light rail vehicles to replace the current fleet, with both vehicle acquisition programs committed to accessibility, energy efficiency and environmental responsibility.

The Conference theme is "Keep the world cool with LRT – Global solutions for a changing environment"

and session topics include mastering energy efficiency, LRV development, noise reduction and the construction of new maintenance facilities amongst many others.

As the Commission begins the procurement of these vehicles, information updates and exchange with an international peer group is highly advisable to ensure an awareness of best practices and technological advancements.

Travel plans for Mr. Lam include flying from Toronto to Istanbul on Monday, June 9, 2008 and returning Sunday, June 15, 2008. Total costs are estimated to be \$5,104.00, inclusive of conference registration fees, flight, hotel, meals and sundries.

Justification

Mr. Lam is the Commission's Project Manager responsible for the acquisition of Light Rail Vehicles. Additionally, Mr. Lam is the Commission's representative on UITP's Light Rail Assembly working group. The Light Rail Assembly is a forum for liaison, exchange of knowledge and debate that provides information on all topics related to the planning, financing, construction, operation and management of Light Rail systems.

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