

# TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

**MEETING DATE:** September 27, 2012

**SUBJECT:** NOTICE OF APPROVAL - TRAVEL APPROVAL – THE  
INSTITUTION OF RAILWAY SIGNAL ENGINEERS  
CONFERENCE

## **INFORMATION ITEM:**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Commission receive the notice of approval of Chair Karen Stintz, Commissioner John Parker and the Chief Executive Officer, for Mr. Edward W. Chan, Design Engineer - Signals & Train Control Engineering, Rail Infrastructure Department, to attend the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE) Conference in London, England from September 7 to 13, 2012.

### **FUNDING**

Sufficient funds are included in the TTC 2012 Operating Budget.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of July 12, 2010, the Commission approved the revisions and updates to the Authorization for Expenditures and Other Commitments Policy, effective August 1, 2010, which states that "The Commission delegates authority to the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Chief Executive Officer to authorize items that would normally be authorized by the Commission when the approval is required before the next Commission meeting. If the Chair and/or Vice-Chair are not available, authority would be deemed to be delegated to any two (2) Commissioners and the Chief Executive Officer." These authorizations are to be followed up by a notice of award Commission report that is to be submitted to the next scheduled Commission meeting for information.

The IRSE is a UK-based non-profit railway signalling organization with nearly 5000 members working in signalling industries throughout the world. The IRSE's mandate is to improve railway signalling through (i) an open exchange of information and literature, (ii) the encouragement of self education of their membership, and (iii) the development of standards and best practice methods for signal design, installation, test and commissioning disciplines in the railway signalling field.

The IRSE Conference is held every four years and covers key developments in the field of Signalling and Train Control. The conference highlights 'ASPECT' (Automation, Signalling, Performance, Equipment, Control, and Telecommunications). Attendees at this conference include signalling professionals from 15 countries who will present 32 papers that are published as part of the conference proceedings. Past ASPECT conferences have drawn the attendance of over 600 signalling professionals.

**DISCUSSION**

Travel plans for Mr. Chan would involve flying from Toronto to London on September 7, 2012 and returning on September 13, 2012. Total costs are estimated to be approximately \$4,300 which includes hotel, flight, domestic travel, meals and sundries, and conference registration fees. Commission approval is required if conference costs exceed \$3,500.

**JUSTIFICATION**

Mr. Chan is one of the Commission's technical specialists in the area of Signalling and Train Control Engineering. It is recommended that a member of the Rail Infrastructure Department attend the IRSE Conference to gather information on technology, best practices, project implementation and lessons learned from a review of signalling projects in London, Auckland, and Dubai. Discussions will also be held on whether longer trains require longer platforms, Communications Based Train Control, automation and future technology.

Mr. Chan's attendance is recommended to gain further insight into operations of various subway properties. In addition, he would also learn about the various capital projects being undertaken by other properties and the rationale behind such projects. This would assist the TTC and especially the Signals and Train Control Engineering group understand and implement signalling best practices.

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August 22, 2012  
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