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Beth Mai

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**Director of  
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April 12, 2024

Mayor Joe Preston  
City of St. Thomas  
P.O. Box 520 545 Talbot Street  
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3V7  
Email: [mayor@stthomas.ca](mailto:mayor@stthomas.ca)

Dear Mayor Preston and Council,

Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) Trustees recently approved the following motion:

That the Chair write a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees to engage the City of St. Thomas council in discussion regarding a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding will detail the logistics of a two-year pilot in collaboration with TVDSB and the Railway City Transit to provide students entering grade nine at a TVDSB St Thomas high school a free bus pass effective 2024 September and grant writing associated to fulfill the cost of the pilot. The letter will be shared on the TVDSB website.

I am writing to follow-up on that directive and invite the City to collaborate with TVDSB to make this exciting opportunity a reality.

Topics for further discussion could include:

- The cost of providing all St. Thomas secondary students with municipal bus passes for two school years
- How TVDSB and the City of St. Thomas could collaborate on this project
- How we might measure success
- How costs may be funded or subsidized including through grant application processes

There are many potential benefits to providing bus passes to secondary students at no additional cost to students. For example, students would have better access to social supports, employment, and volunteer opportunities. Their ridership could also reduce emissions and boost the local economy.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request. We invite you to reach out to the Trustees' Office using the contact details provided, so we can arrange a time to discuss next steps.

Together, we can learn how to best support St. Thomas youth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth Mai', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Beth Mai  
Chair of the Board  
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Mark Fisher, Director Fisher  
Trustees  
Student Trustees