



MOTION REGARDING A FEE INCREASE FOR DRIVESAFE REFERENDUM QUESTION

2025-01-30

Submitted for: 2025-01-30

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2025-01-30-001
Moved by:	Hamza Abu Alkhair <i>Service Rep.</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Dymetri Taylor <i>President</i>		

Issue

The current fee levy that covers the costs of operations of DriveSafe is not sustainable for future years. DriveSafe would like to increase the Safety Network fee from \$1.65 to \$2.65.

Background and Rationale

DriveSafe is a SSMU service that provides free (\$0) rides home for students on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. In the 2024/25 school year, we safely drove 1100+ students home.

DriveSafe has undertaken several initiatives in the past years that have increased our operating budget to better serve students. This includes:

- Increasing service capacity: up to 3 vehicles on Thursdays, and 4 vehicles on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Begin a transition pilot semester towards an electric vehicle fleet, with the goal of transitioning completely to an all electric vehicle fleet in the 2025/26 academic year.



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

- Working with an external contractor to develop a mobile application for DriveSafe which will increase our accessibility and allow us to increase our capacity by rendering our service more efficient, thereby reducing wait times.
- Working to reinstate the MacDonald Campus Shuttle by the end of the Winter 2025 Semester.
- Our SafeHome initiative with SSMU WalkSafe has increased in capacity. Pending volunteer availability, we have the operational capacity to run 2 vehicles per night throughout the duration of the exam period, operating from both the McLennan-Redpath Complex, and the Schulich Library.

All of these projects require additional room in our budget.

Moreover, DriveSafe currently offers on-demand service for special events run by Faculties and clubs at McGill. The current rate for this service is \$155 per 4 hour shift per vehicle. Under the proposed fee increase, DriveSafe can offer ≤ 8 (potentially more pending volunteer capacity and the rate of transition to EV fleet) special events per month at no cost (\$0) to faculties (e.g. SUS, MUS) for events such as Frosh, Carnival, Science Games, etc.. This change will significantly reduce burdens to Faculties, rendering our service more accessible. Note: An equitable special event selection process will be implemented to ensure all faculties have fair access to DriveSafe's free service initiative.

Inflation has greatly affected the costs to rent cars and purchase food for volunteers. DriveSafe is now covering parking costs for volunteers, which increases the cost to operate.

Lastly, although DriveSafe still has a surplus built up due to a lack of operations during COVID-19, the fee increase combined with the surplus will allow DriveSafe to maintain the expanded and more sustainable operations until the fee renewal date in 2028, without the need to increase it again between now and then. However, if we were to wait to increase the fee and use up all the surplus, we would need to increase the fee more the following year. With this amount of increase, we're able to use up our surplus at a sustainable rate from now until 2029.

Alignment with Mission

DriveSafe provides an equitable and safe way for all McGill students to get home. We are able to provide a free service for students that protects them,



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

which is something that SSMU values. In pursuit of sustainability, our ongoing transition to an electric vehicle fleet is a necessary step for the longevity of DriveSafe. In pursuit of accessibility, reducing costs for Faculties will help promote the use of our service, ensure the safety of more students.

Consultations Completed

The VP Finance and President of DriveSafe have met with the Director of Clubs and Services and the President of the SSMU regarding the fee increase. The President of the SSMU determined upon review of Drivesafe's budget that a fee increase was necessary to maintain the current level of service.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The fee levy increase will cause the SSMU Safety Fee to increase. This fee is non-opt outable, so all students will have to pay an additional \$1.00 per student, per semester. However, this total increase does not represent a significant risk factor for students. If every student takes DriveSafe once, they will have made their money back, and gotten home safely. Essentially, the benefit of the service provided is significantly greater than the charge incurred. Moreover, with regards to the price reduction for Faculties contracting DriveSafe for special events; receiving DriveSafe's service for free can result in ticket price reductions for special events.

Sustainability Considerations

Although Drivesafe is a car service, we are committed to a transition to an electric vehicle fleet. This was initially provisioned to be a transition completed by 2030; although with the urgency of the climate crisis, we have expedited this goal and expect to complete our transition to an electric vehicle fleet within the 2025/26 academic year, pending the cooperation of various McGill bodies.

In addition, we combine calls to create a carpool system when driving folks home. These combinatorial rides will be further bolstered by the algorithms in our forthcoming mobile application.



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The approval of this motion would allow DriveSafe to continue serving the students of the McGill community to its fullest capacity with regular operation hours.

Should this motion be rejected, DriveSafe will be forced to keep operations as they are; slow our sustainable transition to an electric vehicle fleet, and reduce the number of cars available per night and/or the operational days until 2027.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2025 Referendum Period ballot:

Do you agree to the fee increase of SSMU Safety Fee from \$1.65 to \$2.65 payable by all undergraduate students who are SSMU Members, starting in Fall 2025, and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority "no" will not allow DriveSafe to expand their operations at the current fee collected?

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

Be it resolved that, the Legislative Council approves, and recommends the ratification to the Board of Directors.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

2024-25 Operating Budget:

Operating Revenue				
Department Number	Department Name	Amount Budgeted	Explanation	
4900	Student & Administrative Fees	\$75,658.72	Projected Fee levy: \$1.65	
4998	Previous Year Surplus	\$100,708.00	Amount from previous years surplus	
	TOTAL:	\$176,366.72		
Annual Operating Expenses				
Department Number	Department Name	Amount Budgeted	Explanation	Amounts
6370	Rental	\$34,820.00	Regular Operation: 12 cars/week; \$70/car 3 vans/week; \$100/van; 27 operating weeks \$70*12*27+\$100*3*27	\$30,780.00
			SafeHome (Exam Season) 5 cars/week; 11 days/semester; 2 semesters \$70*11*2	\$1,540.00
			~4 accidents/year \$500/car accident \$500*4	\$2,000.00
			~2 cleaning issues/year \$250/cleaning issue \$250*2	\$500.00
6111	Food & Beverage	\$14,325.00	Regular Operation: 27 operating weeks; \$30/shift/vehicle 15 cars/week \$30*15*27	\$12,150.00
			SafeHome (Exam Season) \$30/shift/vehicle; 11 days/semester; 2 semesters \$30*11*2	\$660.00



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

			\$15/dispatcher/night; 3 dispatchers/week \$15*3*27	\$1,215.00
			~\$300 for snacks in the DriveSafe office	\$300.00
6305	Automobile Expenses / Moving	\$5,190.00	Regular Operation: Parking 27 operating weeks; \$15/vehicle/shift; ~12 shifts/week \$15*12*27	\$4,860.00
			SafeHome (Exam Season): \$15/shift/vehicle; 11 days \$15*11*2	\$330.00
6306	Conferences & Travel	\$22,810.00	Regular Operation: \$55 for gas/car/shift; 12 cars/week; \$70 for gas/van/shift; 2 cars/week; 27 operating weeks \$55*12*27+\$70*2*27	\$21,600.00
			SafeHome (Exam Season): \$55/shift/vehicle; 11 days/semester; 2 semesters \$55*11*2	\$1,210.00
6610	Telephone	\$6,410.00	Phone upgrade: \$260 (new Samsung Galaxy A14 4G LTE)	\$260.00
			Tablets: 6x Samsung Galaxy Tab A7 Lite 8.7" 32GB Wifi + Cellular + Cases \$325*6	\$1,950.00
			7 phone/tablet plans @ \$50/month \$50*12*7	\$4,200.00
6130	Postage & Courier	\$40.00	~\$40.00 to deliver cheques to appropriate persons (volunteers, companies, etc.)	\$40.00
6160	Membership / Training	\$14,460.00	~1 volunteer appreciation event/semester; 2 semesters \$50/person; Maximum of 100 people/event 2*\$50*100	\$10,000.00
			1 Volunteer training session per semester \$15/volunteer for snacks; 100 volunteers; 2 semesters \$15*100*2	\$3,000.00
			1 Volunteer training session per semester; \$380 per room booking per semester	\$760.00
			~1 executive event/semester; 2 semester \$50/exec, 7 execs 2*\$50*7	\$700.00



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

6133	Clothing	\$630.00	executive sweaters; ~\$90/sweater; 7 execs 90*7	\$630.00
6361	Honorarium	\$2,620.00	5 volunteers of the month \$50 gift card/volunteer 8 months of operations. 5*\$50*8	\$2,000.00
			Photographer services for exec headshots \$500	\$500.00
			Volunteer Frosh Incentives \$30/gift card 30*4	\$120.00
6431	Fines & Penalties	\$300.00	~4 parking tickets; ~\$75/ticket Parking tickets are for exceptional circumstances. \$75*4	\$300.00
6100	Materials & Supplies	\$7,110.00	~\$50 for printer paper	\$50.00
			Box/backpack supplies for shotgun/shift: Emesis bags (5) @ \$0.70/bag = \$3.50 Face masks (5) @\$0.50/mask = \$2.50 Hand sanitizer @ \$11.00/bottle Lysol wipes @ \$5.00/bottle Febreze @ \$3.50/bottle Paper towels @ \$2.00/roll Garbage bags @ \$1.50/bag Latex/rubber gloves @ \$0.75/pair Water bottle @ \$0.75/bottle Granola bar @ \$0.75/bar Replace items as needed (all supplies replaced approx every month) 20 boxes total; 8 months of operation (\$3.50+\$2.50+\$11.00+\$5.00+\$3.50+\$2.00+\$1.50+\$0.75+\$0.75+\$0.75)*20*8	\$5,000.00
			First aid kit @ \$25.00/kit Box itself @ \$9.00 Backpack itself @ \$60.00 DriveSafe magnet @ \$9.00 Replace every year; 20 boxes total (\$25.00+\$9.00+\$60.00+\$9.00)*20	\$2,060.00
6320	Advertising & Promotion	\$4,200.00	\$4000 for promotional material (e.g. stickers, ping pong balls, bottle openers, pens, etc.)	\$4,000.00



Bureau du président du conseil de l'ÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

			~\$100 for supplies for on-campus tabling (e.g. table cloth, beer pong set)	\$100.00
			~\$100 Shipping	\$100.00
6411	Donations	\$86.28	Carbon Footprint donations 12 vehicles/week ~160km/shift = 1920 km/week ~0.287T Carbon = US \$2.24 US \$2.24*27 weeks = US \$60.48 = CAD \$81.28 Administrative fees: ~\$5 \$81.28+\$5	\$86.28
6660	Contract Services	\$4,800.00	Blaise Dispatch Operating System \$400/month*12 months	\$4,800.00
	TOTAL:	\$117,801.28		

N.B. With the ongoing shift to electric vehicles, it is likely that rental costs will increase by 10-15%.

APPROVED