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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:31 PM

Present: Commissioner Collier, Chair
Commissioner Barton, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Bath-Hadden
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Drew
Commissioner Mulcahy

Also

Present: Commissioner Crawford

Absent: Regional Chair Henry
Commissioner Pickles

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. McKinley, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
A. Naeem, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal
C. Norris, Manager, Customer Experience, Durham Region Transit
S. Pollock, Communication Coordinator, Durham Region Transit
C. Tennesco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Carter,
(60) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, be adopted.
CARRIED

3. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

4. Presentations

4.1 Kelly McDermott, Solicitor, Labour and Employee, Region of Durham and Ian Sinnott, Unifor Local 222, Chairperson, re: DRT Court Advocacy Program

In the absence of Kelly McDermott and Ian Sinnott, Cindy Boyd, Solicitor, Region of Durham, and Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Regional Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Durham Region Transit Court Advocacy Program (CAP). A copy of the presentation was provided as a handout.

C. Boyd provided an overview of the CAP and advised that CAP assists and supports DRT employees involved in an on-duty work-related incident, as a victim or witness, where another person has been charged by police. She noted that the Program does not provide assistance to an employee charged with or accused of an offence including a Highway Traffic Act violation.

C. Boyd outlined the various ways in which the Legal Services Division will advocate on behalf of an employee.

B. Holmes and C. Boyd provided an overview of the staff members within DRT, the Legal Services Division and Unifor who will manage the program and assist employees. B. Holmes stressed the importance of DRT employees being supported by the employer and staff.

C. Boyd provided an overview of various situations when an employee should contact the Court Advocacy Program (CAP) via management, Unifor and/or CAP email.

C. Boyd responded to questions regarding the assistance for an individual who is charged or accused of an offence and then found to be not guilty; the number of incurred DRT work-related incidents to-date; and whether the DRT buses are equipped with video surveillance systems, and if so, can the surveillance video legally be provided as evidence.

The Committee inquired whether the required staffing is currently in place to manage the Court Advocacy Program (CAP) including a Legal representative; and, if the staffing costs will be absorbed internally.

5. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – December 2019 (2019-DRT-23)

Report #2019-DRT-23 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Bath-Hadden, (61) That Report #2019-DRT-23 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Durham Region Transit Budget Status Report to October 31, 2019 and Full Year Forecast (2019-DRT-24)

Report #2019-DRT-24 from N. Taylor, Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Bath-Hadden, (62) That Report #2019-DRT-24 of the Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

C) Durham Region Transit (DRT) Fare Strategy (2019-DRT-25)

Report #2019-DRT-25 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Bath-Hadden, (63) A) That the principles and timeframes outlined in the fare strategy described in Report #2019-DRT-25 of the General Manager, be endorsed; and

B) That DRT continue to collaborate with Metrolinx and other Greater Toronto and Hamilton area transit agencies to harmonize concessions and explore opportunities to reduce fare barriers to cross boundary travel.

CARRIED

6. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

7. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

8. Other Business

8.1 Application for Unconditional Eligibility for Durham Region Transit Specialized Services

At the request of the Committee, B. Holmes provided an update on the status of an application for unconditional eligibility of Durham Region Transit Specialized Services from Oshawa to Courtice; the decision of the Eligibility Coordinator; and the Eligibility Appeal process by an independent panel.

Commissioner Anderson asked staff for a copy of the correspondence regarding the applicant's request. B. Holmes advised staff would provide a copy of the correspondence to the Commissioner.

8.2 Metroland Article: Should Durham move to zero fare public transit

Chair Collier cited a recent article published in The Metroland newspaper titled: 'Should Durham move to zero fare public transit' regarding a campaign by 'We Are Oshawa' for zero fare transit in Durham Region to address matters related to climate change and economic inequality in the area. B. Holmes advised the Committee that staff have initiated a review of the impacts of providing free fares for transit services in Durham Region. He also advised that staff will report back to Committee on the results of the review in the new year.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

The Chair advised the Members that the upcoming scheduled Durham Region Transit Commission (DRTC) meeting will be held, prior to Council, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, in the Council Chambers.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Mulcahy, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(64) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

Committee Clerk