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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:30 PM

Present: Commissioner Collier, Chair  
Commissioner Barton, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Anderson  
Commissioner Bath-Hadden  
Commissioner Carter  
Commissioner Drew  
Commissioner Mulcahy attended the meeting at 1:37 PM  
Commissioner Pickles  
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Commissioner Crawford  
Commissioner Marimpietri

Staff

Present: W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit  
J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit  
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  
M. Simpson, Director, Financial Planning and Purchasing, Finance Department  
N. Taylor, Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, and Commissioner of Finance  
A. Wismer, Economic Analyst 2, Finance Department  
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Commissioner Pickles, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,  
(1) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive  
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**3. Delegations**

There were no delegations to be heard.

**4. Presentations**

4.1 Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, and Nancy Taylor,  
Treasurer of Durham Region Transit and Commissioner of Finance, re: 2020  
Transit Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast Presentation

On behalf of Bill Holmes and Nancy Taylor; Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit, and Mary Simpson, Director, Financial Planning and Purchasing, Finance Department, provided the PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Transit Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast Report. A copy of the presentation was provided as a handout.

Jamie Austin provided an overview of the Durham Region Transit (DRT) strategic framework. He advised that the framework is comprised of DRT's 2018 to 2020 organizational objectives.

Highlights of his presentation included:

2020 Budget – Strategic Framework

- 2019 Highlights
- Service Priorities for 2020 and Beyond
  1. Improving Access
  2. Improving Connections
  3. Improving Performance
  4. Enhancing Services
- Proposed Fare Adjustments
- From Public Transit Operator to an Integrated Network of Mobility Services
- Financial and Operating Pressures

M. Simpson provided an overview of the 2020 DRT financial considerations. She outlined the operating pressures in terms of the annualization of previous years service enhancements; an aging fleet; and the general cost of DRT's operations.

Highlights of her presentation included:

Financial Implications and Outlook

- Proposed Service Adjustments
- Proposed Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Project Financing (2020 - 2027)
- Capital Forecast (net of ICIP)
- Fare Revenues
- Pressures and Risks Over the Forecast

J. Austin and M. Simpson responded to questions regarding the status and terms of the PRESTO Agreement between the Region and Metrolinx; and the amount of monies received in 2019 from the Provincial Gas Tax funding. Discussion followed on the Region's obligation to continue the PRESTO electronic fare payment system to be eligible to receive the Provincial Gas Tax Funding; the PRESTO Common Core Fees; and the obligation for an overall 80 per cent adoption rate of PRESTO by each of the 905 transit agencies.

J. Austin responded to questions regarding the definition of "Ridership" being the sum of all passenger trips; and the fare revenue risks associated with the forecasted 1.8 per cent ridership growth, being less than anticipated. It was questioned whether the installation of the dedicated bus median rapid transit lanes on Highway 2 would extend east of Pickering. C. Norris advised that, at this time, the business case provides for the median rapid transit lanes to continue east to Ajax.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,  
(2) That the order of the Agenda be altered to consider Item 6. B) next.  
CARRIED

**6. Reports**

B) 2020 Transit Strategic Issues and Financial Report (2020-DRT-02)

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Report #2020-DRT-02 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the limited GO Transit services to the northern municipalities; and, the costs of the DRT and GO Transit's One Fare program to use select GO Bus routes to provide connections within the Region where DRT currently doesn't operate.

Discussion also ensued regarding the DRT initiatives to be funded through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) including the procurement of DRT operator protection shields; bus shelter improvements; and the hard surfacing at bus stops in the Region. Discussion followed on the 2019 DRT fare initiatives including the Kids Ride Free pilot program, the Youth Summer 2-4-1 Pass and the Y10 (Youth 10 month) Loyalty Pass; how these initiatives impacted the 2019 DRT ridership; and if these initiatives increase the potential for future Provincial Gas Tax funds. It was questioned what a 2% increase in new ridership represents in terms of the number of riders. J. Austin advised approximately 20,000 to 25,000 riders.

M. Simpson responded to questions regarding potential opportunities for negotiations with the City of Pickering in terms of revenue contributions towards the proposed DRT infrastructure and operations for services to the new “Durham Live” entertainment district.

In response to questions, J. Austin provided an overview on the timelines and operational customer benefits and challenges of the hybrid electric buses; battery electric buses and the assessment by Oshawa Power for the required charging infrastructure at the DRT garage located in Oshawa; the timelines for the automated/autonomous shuttle one year pilot program at the Whitby Station; and the introduction of the six articulated buses on the PULSE 900 Highway 2 service by September 2020. It was noted that, pending Federal and Provincial approvals of the ICIP projects, the 11 hybrid electric buses will be deployed from the depot in the Town of Ajax and assigned to local routes.

B. Holmes responded to questions regarding the future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors through the pinch point downtown areas of the local municipalities; and, the potential parking and revenue impacts on the local area businesses and municipalities. He advised that dialogue is ongoing between Metrolinx, DRT, the local area municipalities and the interested stakeholders.

The Committee stressed how important it is for DRT to communicate transit initiatives, service options and route changes to its ridership and throughout the community.

J. Austin also responded to questions regarding the 2019 ridership numbers for the Municipality of Clarington; and whether DRT would be extending transit services to the new growth areas in Clarington. C. Norris advised that DRT is proposing an extension of the On Demand transit services into the rural areas of Clarington and piloting in the low demand areas of Pickering. It was noted that the General Manager of DRT would be attending the Clarington Council meeting in March 2020 following approval of the 2020 DRT budget, to discuss the transit model for services into the rural and low demand areas. It was also questioned when staff expect to complete the Rural Transit Review for the northern municipalities. C. Norris advised in the Spring.

Further discussion ensued regarding potential opportunities for high school students to access to DRT services to get to and from school; and, the staff report to be presented later in 2020 outlining recommendations to improve youth ridership, including trips to and from school.

B. Holmes responded to questions regarding the status of the measures being taken by DRT to reduce the transfer challenges experienced by Specialized Services customers travelling between Durham Region and Toronto; and providing a seamless integration between the borders.

When questioned whether Durham should move to zero fare public transit, B. Holmes advised that staff have initiated a review of the impacts of providing free fares for transit services in Durham Region and will report back to the Committee in the late Spring 2020 on the results of the review.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,

- (3) A) That the 2020 Transit Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast Report be approved and forwarded to the 2020 Business Planning and Budget deliberations;
- B) That, effective May 1, 2020, the following transit fare increases be implemented, estimated to generate approximately \$270,000 in new fare revenue in 2020 based on DRT's ridership forecast of 11.25 million:
- i) The Adult single-ride PRESTO and Ticket fares to increase by \$0.05 from \$3.20 to \$3.25;
  - ii) The Youth single-ride PRESTO and Ticket fares to increase by \$0.05 from \$2.85 to \$2.90;
  - iii) The Senior and Child (if applicable subject to recommendation C)) single-ride PRESTO and Ticket fares to increase by \$0.05 from \$2.10 to \$2.15;
  - iv) The Adult and Youth Cash fare to increase by \$0.25 from \$3.75 to \$4.00; and,
  - v) The Senior and Child (if applicable subject to recommendation C)) Cash fares to increase by \$0.25 from \$2.50 to \$2.75;
- C) That the requirement for children riding free to be accompanied by a fare paying customer be removed, allowing all children 12 years of age and younger to ride transit free of charge effective March 1, 2020;

- D) That, as a result of Kids Ride Free being made permanent and subject to the requirement for children riding free to be accompanied by a fare paying customer being removed, all Child Ticket and Pass sales, PRESTO Child fares and the Ride-to-Read program be eliminated effective May 1, 2020;
- E) That the Treasurer and General Manager of Durham Region Transit be authorized to execute a one-year extension to the existing U-Pass agreement with Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Trent University (Durham Campus), including a two per cent increase in the fee per eligible student from \$139.00 per semester to \$141.75 per semester for the period of September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021; and
- F) That a similar report be forwarded to the Finance and Administration Committee meeting of January 14, 2020.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee on January 14, 2020 and presented to Regional Council on January 29, 2020.

## 5. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to be considered.

## 6. Reports

### A) General Manager's Report – January 2020 (2020-DRT-01)

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Report #2020-DRT-01 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,

- (4) That Report #2020-DRT-01 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

### B) 2020 Transit Strategic Issues and Financial Report (2020-DRT-02)

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This item was considered with earlier in the meeting. See pages 3 to 6 of these minutes.

### C) Appointment of members to the Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee (2020-DRT-03)

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Report #2020-DRT-03 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,  
(5) A) That the following nominees be appointed to the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) for the term of this Council:

i) Nominated by local municipal Councils:

- a) City of Oshawa: Juliette Layne
- b) Township of Scugog: Ivy Liang

CARRIED

## 7. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

## 8. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

## 9. Other Business

### A) Durham Region Transit Executive Committee Meeting Scheduled for 2020

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,  
(6) That the Transit Executive Committee meetings for 2020 be held on Wednesday commencing at 1:30 PM on the following dates:

- January 8, 2020
- February 5, 2020
- March 4, 2020
- April 8, 2020
- May 6, 2020
- June 3, 2020
- September 9, 2020
- October 7, 2020
- November 4, 2020
- December 2, 2020

CARRIED

### B) Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee 2020 Meeting Schedule

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,  
(7) That the Transit Advisory Committee meetings for 2020 be held on Tuesday commencing at 7:00 PM on the following dates:

- January 21, 2020
- March 24, 2020
- May 19, 2020
- September 22, 2020
- November 17, 2020

CARRIED

C) Plane Crash in Tehran, Iran

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Chair Collier took a moment to reflect on the victims of the plane crash in Tehran, Iran. He advised that, as of this time, it is known that three (3) of the victims were Durham Region residents residing in the Town of Ajax; and, that the Town's flag would be at half-mast in memory of all the victims.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by Commissioner Bath-Hadden, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,  
(8) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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S. Collier, Chair

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Cheryl Tennisco, Committee Clerk