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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, March 4, 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 Carter
Commissioner Drew
Commissioner Mulcahy
Commissioner Pickles
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Commissioner Crawford

Absent: Commissioner Bath-Hadden was absent due to municipal business

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
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
J. Phelan, Planner, Service Design, Durham Region Transit
S. Pollock, Coordinator Communications, 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 Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(14) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

4. Presentations

There were no presentations to be heard.

5. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

6. Reports

A) General Manager's Update – March 2020 (2020-DRT-06)

Report #2020-DRT-06 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

B. Holmes responded to questions regarding the PRESTO Device refresh program for the replacement of all the devices. It was noted that the PRESTO devices are at the end of life.

At the request of the Committee, B. Holmes and E. Baxter-Trahair provided an update on the Durham Live Facility in Pickering. B. Holmes advised that in regard to the transportation component, DRT was advised that the Pickering Casino will operate a free shuttle service to and from Casino Ajax and the Ajax and Pickering GO Stations; and, that DRT would not be duplicating transportation service to the Casino. He provided an update on DRT's contingency plan to support public transportation needs, if required, for the Facility's opening.

E. Baxter-Trahair provided an update of the ongoing negotiations with the City of Pickering in terms of revenue sharing for Regional services to the Durham Live Facility and entertainment district. She also advised that the Durham Live casino shuttle buses will be restricted from using the bus-only lanes along Highway 2.

Discussion ensued regarding the preliminary traffic control plans in place along Church Street from Bayly Street north of Mill Street, north of Highway 401, for the opening weeks of the Durham Live casino.

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(15) That Report #2020-DRT-06 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Durham Region Transit Automated Shuttle Pilot (2020-DRT-07)

Report #2020-DRT-07 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

J. Austin responded to questions regarding whether an attendant will be on board the automated shuttle during and after the pilot period; the long term benefits and costs of an automated electric shuttle versus an electric bus; the passenger size of the shuttle. Discussion followed on opportunities that may exist to utilize the automated shuttle technology to provide future transit access within the communities that would compliment DRT services.

Discussion ensued regarding the contributions from the Region and the Town of Whitby, along with the roles and funding agreements provided by the project partners; the potential to broaden the automated shuttle service within the area municipalities; the risk strategy plans should the Pilot encounter failure issues, including the project partners; and DRT's obligations with Smart Cone Technologies Inc.

Chair Collier announced that the TEC members will be invited to attend an event for the launching of the Transit Automated Shuttle.

Moved by Commissioner Mulcahy, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(16) That the General Manager of Durham Region Transit, working with Regional staff partners, be authorized to:

- i) Deliver a one-year automated shuttle pilot starting June 1, 2020 in partnership with the Town of Whitby, SmartCone Technologies Inc., Pacific Western Transportation and the Ontario Centres for Excellence;
- ii) Negotiate and execute the necessary agreements with project partners including the Town of Whitby, SmartCone Technologies Inc. and Pacific Western Transportation subject to approval of the Region of Durham Legal Services, with substantive terms as identified herein; and
- iii) Report back to the Transit Executive Committee at the conclusion of the pilot on the results and key learnings.

CARRIED

C) DRT Transit Stop Guidelines (2020-DRT-08)

Report #2020-DRT-08 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the DRT transit stop guidelines for bus stop locations where the standard bus stop cannot be accommodated, including the rural areas.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(17) That Report #2020-DRT-08 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

7. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee items to be considered.

8. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

9. Other Business

9.1 Durham Region Transit's (DRT) Role in Managing COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

B. Holmes responded to a question regarding whether the COVID-19 has impacted the Durham Region Transit ridership.

A. McKinley provided an overview of the measures that DRT have implemented to ensure the safety of their employees and customers in response to COVID-19, including the process to clean and disinfect the buses. It was noted that the regular cleaning efforts would be enhanced to include the cleaning and disinfection of hard surfaces within the operator and passenger areas of the revenue vehicles.

B. Holmes advised that Durham Region Transit is in daily contact with the General Managers and staff of the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) transit agencies who are also monitoring the COVID-19 closely. He noted that DRT and the transit agencies, are using the same approach, and are taking their directions from the local Public Health Departments.

Discussion ensued regarding how DRT would notify its customers if a person with COVID-19 boarded a DRT bus. B. Holmes explained that DRT does not track the movement of its customers; and that Public Health may be able to identify customers through PRESTO if they registered their PRESTO card. It was noted that in the event of a COVID-19 issue or incident involving a DRT bus, customers could refer to the DRT website and social media for further information.

9.2 Construction Timelines for Dedicated Bus-Only Lanes along Highway 2

Commissioner Pickles inquired when DRT will be constructing dedicated bus-only lanes along Highway 2, between Glenanna and Brock Roads, in the City of Pickering. B. Holmes advised staff would look into the timelines for the construction of the dedicated bus-only lanes and email Commissioner Pickles directly.

9.3 Metrolinx Meeting in Port Perry, in the Township of Scugog

B. Holmes confirmed that a meeting will be held on Friday, March 6, 2020, between Metrolinx officials and Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPP), in Port Perry, in the Township of Scugog. He advised the meeting is to discuss Metrolinx's plans for transit services (Route 81) in the rural areas, including the northern municipalities and the Municipality of Clarington. Durham Region Transit staff will be in attendance.

9.4 Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Cameras

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming implementation of the automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras and the issuing of automated speed enforcement tickets in school and community safety zones throughout Durham Region within the next 90 days. B. Holmes advised that all DRT operators and staff have been informed on the upcoming ASE cameras; and that Regional and DRT staff are working together to ensure a consistent approach to manage tickets that may be issued to the Region or DRT.

9.5 Durham Region Transit Operator Appreciation Day – March 18, 2020

B. Holmes announced that on March 18, 2020 DRT will recognize their Transit Operators for the important work they do everyday and he noted that this well-deserved day of thanks will also be promoted on the various social media channels.

9.6 Durham Region Transit Adventure Challenge Pilot – March 18, 2020

Chair Collier announced that he has organized a Transit Adventure Challenge Pilot in follow-up to Metrolinx's proposed reserved paid parking at GO Stations. He advised that the challenge will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020; it will commence at Union Station in Toronto; and, includes four people. One person will drive their vehicle to the final destination point and the other three people will take the GO Train to Ajax. Upon arrival at the Ajax GO Train Station, one person will get on a DRT bus, one person will get in their car parked in the GO Station garage; and one will walk to their car parked at the back of the GO parking lot. The pilot is intended to demonstrate the travel time for the same trip between Ajax and downtown Toronto, using a personal vehicle and public transit.

10. Date of Next Meeting

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

11. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,
(18) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

Committee Clerk